Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Statement Supports Anti-Iraq Action

LD1701151491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Jan (SPA)—The General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has said that the multinational forces are currently implementing Security Council Resolution 678, which asked the international community to take all necessary measures to return security and law to the Arab Gulf region, to liberate Kuwait, and to implement the principle of collective security.

In a statement issued at the start of the military operations to liberate Kuwait from the unjust Iraqi occupation under the UN resolutions, the General Secretariat of the council today hailed the will of the international community to implement the Security Council resolutions, to impose the principles of law, and to compel the Iraqi regime to comply with the UN Security Council resolutions. It also hailed all the states contributing to the multinational forces for their will and determination, and for facing up to their international responsibilities. Moreover, the General Secretariat hailed the sisterly Arab and Islamic states that stood with righteousness, allowed the principles of justice to triumph, and preserved brotherly ties.

The statement reaffirmed the GCC states' determination to liberate Kuwait in accordance with the resolutions of the Higher Council of the GCC, the Arab summit, and the Security Council and to cooperate with the multinational forces in order to accomplish this task. In this respect, the statement noted the collapse of all attempts to evict the forces of the Iraqi regime by peaceful means, after all the means of conviction exerted by Arab mediators and by European and friendly states, who all went to Baghdad out of their concern to realize a peaceful solution based on the resolutions of the Security Council.

The statement went on to say: The Iraqi regime responded to these attempts with mockery, dealt with the appeals with arrogance, dealt with the crime of invading Kuwait and annihilating its people with invasion and ignorance, and denied the Kuwaiti people's right to their country, history, land, and sovereignty.

The GCC General Secretariat's statement blamed the Iraqi regime for what is now taking place, after the patience of the international community with Saddam Husayn's trickery, his scorn for the world, his insult to public opinion and to the UN secretary general, who was met with crudeness and blatant defiance by the ruler of Baghdad.

Finally, the statement stressed that the peoples of the Arab Gulf region will not forget the crime of those who have supported the Iraqi regime, who applauded it, who insulted the Kuwaiti people, who violated the principles of brotherhood, and who betrayed ties of kinship.

MEA Cancels Flights to Gulf Destinations

NC1601061191 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Middle East Airlines [MEA] has announced the cancellation of its today's scheduled flights to Dhahran, Saudi Arabia; Qatar; and Bahrain until further notice, in view of the situation in the Gulf.

Scientist Predicts Ecological Disaster After War

AU1601132391 Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 15 Jan 91 p 9

[Interview with Fawaz Elkami (name as published), director of the energy sector of the Supreme Council for Science and Technology of the Kingdom of Jordan, by Martina Doering in Amman; date not given: "Temperature Would Rise by 20 Degrees As a Result of the Gulf War"]

[Text] [Doering] Which consequences do you expect as a result of a war?

[Elkami] If we exclude a nuclear explosion, we see the greatest danger in having the oil fields set on fire. Kuwait has 750 to 1,000 oil wells. They have been mined and if these mines are exploded, then cautious estimates say that 3 million barrels (475 million liters of oil) will burn per day. According to our calculations, however, these estimates are too low.

We think that up to 10 million barrels will burn per day. It is very easy to start this catastrophe; it is not even necessary to mine every single oil well. It is sufficient to blow up the safety valves on the surface in the central spots of the network—and everything will blow up. The consequences: Enormous heat will develop so that temperatures all over the world will rise by 20 degrees. Thick black smoke will develop, which will at first spread over an area of 4 million square meters. Sulfur dioxides, carbon monoxides, and nitric oxides will enter the atmosphere or even the stratosphere. The circulation of air will distribute these emissions all over the world; they will have effects for months or years. The annual emissions of carbon monoxide alone will increase by 10 percent. With the rain, millions of tonnes of acid will come back to the earth and will affect agriculture; surface water and ground water will be contaminated.

[Doering] Thus, the consequences would not be limited to the region?

[Elkami] Certainly not. The climate will change; the seasons and the weather will be affected. In Asia there will be disturbances in the monsoon cycles, the toxic oxides will reach all parts of the world, and later on 500 million, perhaps even 1 billion people will be threatened by starvation. All this will also be felt in Europe and in the United States. There will not only be hundreds of thousands of victims of a war, but there will also be an economic and ecological disaster.

[Doering] How do you asses the risk that chemical and biological combat agents will be used?

[Elkami] This danger is great. Iraq has announced that it will use such weapons and has already "tested" them in the war with Iran against the Kurds. The terrible pictures of the dead went round the world.

[Doering] Do you think that the politicians are sufficiently informed about these consequences?

[Elkami] Already in September 1990 King Husayn of Jordan pointed them out. Jordanian scientists were among the initiators of the conference in London, where experts from the most varied fields presented the results of their investigations to the public.

The governments were briefed, but the reports were often met with—let us say—skepticism. The dangers were played down. At the end of last week, a "special task force" met in New York at the suggestion of the London conference, a body that deals especially with ecological issues. Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan handed UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar a letter that listed the expected consequences. Nevertheless, I do not think that the politicians are really aware of the scope of the disaster.

[Doering] Is Jordan girded for the emergency?

[Elkami] Not at all, neither in military terms nor as regards civil defense. What preventive measures could protect us against such an ecological disaster? We do not have sufficient food reserves, and the most difficult problem will be the water supply, which is already complicated anyway. Now to discuss the danger of a nuclear disaster: The electromagnetic currents produced by the militarily sophisticated weapons systems and their links give rise to the possibility that a nuclear explosion might be caused involuntarily, as a "technical accident" so to speak. Not only the Israelis have nuclear weapons—there are indications that the Americans also have nuclear missiles in the Gulf.

Palestinian Affairs

Executive Committee Issues Gulf War Statement

LD1701195791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jan 91

["PLO Executive Committee 17 January Statement Addressed to the Masses of the Palestinian and Arab Peoples on the War in the Gulf."]

[Text] At these historic hours in the life of our people and the Arab nation, in view of the aggressive U.S. war waged against Iraq and the Arab nation, and in view of the U.S. insistence on rejecting a peaceful solution for the Gulf crisis that will safeguard world peace and enable the world to avoid the catastrophe of a destructive war, the PLO has carried out a comprehensive study of the Gulf crisis since the events of 2 August, embracing the 12 August initiative of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as well as all the Arab and international initiatives submitted by the states sponsoring the Arab solution and a number of European and nonaligned states in order to avoid a destructive war in the Middle East. Since the first moment, the PLO has made efforts and submitted political initiatives in order to find an Arab solution to the Gulf problem within the Arab household, away from the drums of war being beaten by the enemies of this nation, and free of any foreign interference.

Throughout the past five months the PLO has moved at more than one level for the sake of peace and political solution. It submitted a political initiative and sent it to the permanent members of the UN Security Council, the European, Islamic African and non-aligned states, Japan, and the UN secretary general as well as the Arab states. Its political initiative was welcomed and received understanding among many states of the world, but our efforts and the efforts of other states crashed against the rock of the categorical U.S. rejection of all peace initiatives and the insistence of the U.S. Administration on imposing its conditions on Iraq, the Arabs, and the Third World states. That administration has totally ignored international legality, which it uses as a pretext in confronting Iraq while it tramples on the resolutions of international legality in Palestine; it has protected the Zionist occupation of our land and the Zionist aggression against our people, children, and women, and the Islamic and Christian holy places; it has thrown to the wind the UN resolutions and used its veto to protect Israel and its crimes, aggression, and occupation, in addition to giving unlimited and multi-form support to this Israeli enemy, its strategic ally in this treacherous war.

The Middle East region is now witnessing a destructive war in which the Israeli enemy is participating by carrying out aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. The PLO places on the United States full responsibility for this treacherous aggressive war against Iraq and the Arab nation. The PLO declares at this fateful and historic moment that the United States has not come forward with any serious proposal for peace, and throughout the past five months has insisted on its intransigent stance. The United States, which uses the pretext of international legality in carrying out its treacherous aggression, has insistently rejected the convening of an international peace conference to find just solutions for the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem. The U.S. Administration stands stark naked before the whole world in adopting double standards in dealing with the resolutions of international legality in the Gulf and with regard to the Palestinian problem. It has even rejected the mere reference to the necessity of making available international protection to the Palestinian people suffering under the yoke of Israeli oppression and to protecting the Palestinian people's holy places, to say nothing of the U.S. veto, which has gone against our people for more than 40 years now.

This war, which has started in the wake of the cold war and of solving regional disputes by peaceful means—beginning with the explosion in the Middle East—is meeting strong opposition from all the peoples of the world. But the U.S. forces are now continuing their immoral and treacherous bombing of the Iraqi capital and large parts of Iraq and Kuwait with all kinds of bombs. The U.S. Administration has resolved to go ahead with this dirty treacherous war on our Arab land at a time when the international cold war in Europe came to an end at the Paris meeting—only for the U.S. war to begin in the Middle East against Iraq and the Arab nation so that the United States can impose its new international system on us and on the world by force of arms—a system based on subjugating the Arabs and Muslims as well as the Third World, destroying their material and moral strength, controlling and plundering their resources, and preventing them from catching up with the progress of mankind.

The PLO today sets before our Palestinian and Arab masses all the facts of the dangerous situation, because the aggression is not confined to Iraq—it is a colonialist invasion initiated by the United States, in which Israel plays the role of the striking arm to hit our people's rights and establish the Zionist state—the strategic ally of America—from the Nile to the Euphrates.

In view of this danger, we and the Arab nation—armies, masses, and regimes—have no option but to exercise our right to self-defense. We, as a nation, are being subjected to aggression, and an Arab capital—the capital of the Caliph al-Rashid [Baghdad]—is being attacked with all types of bombs. For this reason we declare to our Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic masses that the United States, all those who are with it, and all those riding in its saddle, shoulder the responsibility for the bloodshed, catastrophes, and destruction which will be inflicted on the region and the world at the hands of the aggressive U.S. forces. We say that the Gulf problem is an Arab problem, that the Arabs are capable of solving it, and that the U.S. Administration is the one that prevented and is preventing—through its pressures—our efforts and the efforts of our brothers and friends to arrive at this solution within the framework of the Arab household. Our nation is confronting an American aggression, and it has no option but to stand fast; our people and nation have no option but to exercise legitimate self-defense.

Long live our Arab nation! Long live the unity of the Arab struggle to check the American-Israeli aggression against our people and the Arab masses! Victory for our nation! Victory comes only from God!

Calls To Resist 'At All Levels'

LD1701140991 Rabat MAP in English 1332 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Rabat, Jan. 17 (MAP)—The eruption of hostilities in the Gulf triggered diverse reactions worldwide.

The PLO Executive Committee called for resistance, at all levels, to the 'coward aggression' and the American attack against Iraq stressing the 'entire responsibility of the United States in the bloodshed and destruction the region will suffer'.

The communique of the committee added that 'the Americans, Zionists and Europeans have allied against Iraq and the Arab nation' calling on all Arab, Islamic and Third World countries to 'oppose the disloyal aggression'.

It added that the aggression does not aim Iraq only but 'all the resources and capacities of the Arab world: our riches, future, history and culture'.

Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed 'deep regret' over the launching of the attack and the failure of diplomatic means adding that Iran did its utmost to avert war.

For his part, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of Libya addressed the Security Council president and to UN secretary general a message requesting the UNO to intervene to put an end to the raids against Iraq. He stressed that 'peaceful means being stalled' the UNO should act to limit the operation to the retrieval of Kuwait as stipulated by the UN Security Council resolution. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Adviser Rejects Terrorism in Gulf War

Calls For Resistance

LD1701222191 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Interview of Bassam Abu-Sharif by reporter Jean-Louis Lescene, in Tunis; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-Sharif] The war has started. Now we hope that Europe will insist on changing its political position, that is, it will insist on holding an international conference to end the war and begin negotiating solutions to establish a global peace in a stabilized Middle East.

[Lescene] What do you advise Palestinians today?

[Abu-Sharif] We ask our people in the occupied territories to step up resistance against the Israeli occupation. I think that is a normal reaction.

[Lescene] So now your policy is resistance in the Israeli occupied territories, and not the export of terrorism?

[Abu-Sharif] Not at all. We condemn terrorism. We are victims of terrorism ourselves. Only two days ago Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid] were killed here.

[Lescene] Are you sure that all Palestinians listen to you?

[Abu-Sharif] Of course. The PLO leads the Palestinians. The PLO is the single representative of the Palestinian people. It is nonetheless well-known in the world that there are dissidents like Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna],

whom is not considered to be a Palestinian or a PLO man. Abu-Nidal works only with Arab countries, but we always try to cooperate and coordinate with the European countries and other Arab countries in order to control at least the efforts and works of these groups.

Retaliation in Austria Ruled Out

AU1801113191 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 18 Jan 91 p 6

["Poss" report: "PLO: No Retaliation in Austria"]

[Text] Amman—"Although Austria supported the UN resolution against Iraq, it will never be the target of PLO retaliation. It is regarded as a friend." This was affirmed by Dr. As'as 'Abd al-Rahman, member of the PLO Central Committee, in an interview with DER STANDARD four hours before the outbreak of the Gulf war. This was his reaction to a previous report by the Palestinian news agency, WAFA, which carried an appeal of the PLO leadership in Tunis for worldwide retaliation for the "cowardly aggression" against Iraq. 'Abd al-Rahman showed "understanding" for Austria's attitude, whose voting behavior is influenced by "American pressure" and which, as part of the Western world, has to support the European position. Although he has not yet discussed this with Yasir 'Arafat, he knows his attitude, he said.

Franz Pernegger, Austrian ambassador in Amman, has set up a special communications network for the small Austrian colony, which consists of four individuals and 24 families. The ambassador and his three assistants have instructions to stay in place. In contrast, the commercial attache was instructed by the Federal Chamber to go to Damascus.

PLO Calls for 'Action' Against Alliance

LD1701142691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1327 GMT 17 Jan 91

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Jan. 17 (APS)—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) has called on "Arabs, Muslims and peace-loving countries", in a first reaction to the offensive launched Wednesday against the country.

This is a black day for world history, a Palestinian spokesman said, quoted by the Palestinian agency WAFA.

"History will not forgive idlers who will not [word indistinct] on Iraq and the Arab nation," the spokesman added.

Faced with this dangerous situation, the PLO has renewed its call to "the leaders of the nation to undertake urgent action to thwart the American-European-Zionist alliance," the spokesman said.

The Palestinian leadership which met here Wednesday, has decided to keep its session open to follow the development of the aggression, WAFA reported.

PLO Denounces U.S., Pledges Loyalty to Iraq

NC1701191591 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Tunis, Jan 17 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Thursday denounced U.S.-led air raids against Iraq and appealed to Arabs and Muslims to oppose such "cowardly aggression." [passage omitted]

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat has repeatedly asserted his support for Baghdad in its stand-off with the West. Speaking from the Iraqi capital Tuesday he declared that Palestinian forces would "stand alongside Iraq."

For Mr. 'Arafat and his colleagues, Thursday was a doubly bitter day, as they buried three PLO officials here who were assassinated late Monday outside Tunis by a bodyguard.

The PLO charged that Israel had a hand in the shooting deaths of the deputy leader of Mr. 'Arafat's Fatah movement, Abu-Iyad, [Salah Khalaf], intelligence chief Abu-al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid], and his advisor Abu-Muhammad [Fakhri al-'Umari].

Israel has denied any involvement in the killings.

'Official Spokesman' on 'Treacherous' Gulf War

LD1701212491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] A PLO official spokesman has made the following statement:

The forces of the American-Zionist-European alliance launched their aggression against Baghdad at dawn today. The Palestinian leadership was holding a meeting at that time. It closely followed the development of this treacherous war, which was planned by the United States against fraternal Iraq, rejecting in the process all attempts and initiatives submitted for solving the crisis by peaceful methods, being determined to wage war.

This was revealed by the speech made by President Bush during the first hours of the aggression—aggression which has been in the planning phase for the past three weeks. This confirms the U.S. decision to insist on waging war at a time it was dispatching envoys in order to gain time and justify the aggression.

This black day in the history of the world, in which the forces of the American-Zionist-European alliance are carrying out aggression against Iraq, its people, and the Arab nation, places the Arab and Islamic nations, the peoples of the Third World, and all honorable and free and peace-loving men in the world face to face with their historic and human responsibilities to stand against this treacherous aggression and immediately move at all levels to confront this aggression. Our nation and its

leaders are called upon to make an effective move to confront this treacherous aggression against our Arab nation and Iraq—aggression which today is being targetted against our nation's capabilities, foundations, regional security, resources, future, history, and culture. At this difficut time we address our people, who are suffering under the yoke of occupation, and who are confronting the Israeli-American persecution and oppression machine, equipped with the most modern U.S. weapons of destruction, and which receives from the U.S. Administration continuous and unlimited support to continue its repeated crimes against our children, women, holy places, and human and national rights, at a time when the United States boasts of its respect for international freedom and legitimacy.

History will show no mercy to those in this nation who delay in confronting this dangerous and treacherous aggression against fraternal Iraq and our Arab nation.

The PLO Executive Committee is continuing its contacts to confront this major and serious event at all levels, and has decided to continue in permanent session to confront all developments.

'Arafat Adviser Al-Franji Interviewed on Gulf

AU1501185891 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 14 Jan 91 p 4

[Nenad Ivankovic report on "exclusive" interview with Yasir 'Arafat's adviser 'Abdallah al-Franji by VJESNIK correspondent Hasso Suliak; place and date not given: "With Saddam Because of Disappointment"]

[Text] Bonn—"I do not believe that people are so stupid that they would become embroiled in the kind of horrible catastrophe that a war in the Gulf would be. During my last visit to Baghdad, when I spoke to Saddam Husayn, I got the impression that the Iraqis also unconditionally want peace. Husayn wanted the date, 15 January, to be shifted in order to create space for further talks. Finally, the meeting in Geneva showed that the Americans and the Iraqis can talk to each other. Why should this also not happen in the future? The Americans would, of course, have to stop hindering a peaceful solution by not wanting to talk about the Palestinian question. Until the Palestinian question has been resolved, no country in the Middle East can feel truly safe. Europeans, especially the French, have demonstrated that they already understand the essence of the matter. Nevertheless, despite the U.S. stand, it appears that an international conference is already a fait accompli."

This was stated by 'Abdallah al-Franji, a long serving PLO representative in Bonn, member of the Palestinian National Council, member of the al-Fatah Central Committee, and personal adviser to Yasir 'Arafat on matters concerning Western Europe, in an exclutive interview with Hasso Suliak, a correspondent of VJESNIK and the Berlin daily TAZ (which published this interview on Monday).

Answering a question on whether the PLO will support Saddam Husayn if a war broke out in the Gulf, al-Franji said:

"The PLO's stand on a conflict in the Gulf is clear: We have been seeking a peaceful and political solution right from the beginning. Since the beginning of the crisis, our efforts have been directed toward mediating between Kuwait and Iraq. Ever since the Americans deployed their troops in the region, however, our stand has also changed to some extent: If Iraq were attacked the PLO would fight on Saddam Husayn's side. This does not mean that our stands are identical with the Iraqi stands and that we have abandoned the role of mediator."

[Suliak] What would the political solution to the crisis look like?

[Al-Franji] We must find a solution that would suit both the interests of Iraq and the interests of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Above all, we see a connection between the Palestinian problem and the Kuwaiti conflict; that is, we do not think that these problems can be solved independently. The United States has so far boycotted all UN resolutions against the aggressive policies of Israel. The Americans have again demonstrated that they are exerting excessive influence and that they are using the United Nations for their own interests. Therefore, the Palestinian problem must be treated according to the same criteria as the Kuwait conflict.

[Suliak] The Palestinians' sympathies toward Husayn are well-known. Would the PLO lose its supporters if it openly opposed the Iraqi policy in the Gulf? Has the PLO not in this way found itself in trouble?

[Al-Franji] It is true that 90 percent of Palestinians support Saddam Husayn. This is a consequence of despair: the Palestinians have been experiencing a brutal Israeli occupation, during which more than 1,500 people have been killed in the last three years alone. Many of these were children.... Anyway, the PLO has never accepted the annexation of Kuwait, although the issue of borders is an issue among them which would have to be worked out. Such questions exist throughout the world but we do not need the Americans for them.

[Suliak] Before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, thousands and thousands of your compatriots lived in this country; moreover, they worked in important sectors, like banking and trade. A large amount of financial support for the occupied territories actually came from Kuwait. Considering that this money has now dried up, would it not have to be in the interest of the PLO for the sovereignty of Kuwait to be established again?

[Al-Franji] The Palestinians have really lost a great deal. About 220,000 Palestinians, of a total of 400,000 who lived in Kuwait, have had to leave the country. The losses of the Palestinian business people amount to billions of dollars. That is why the responsibility of the PLO in the Gulf crisis is so great, even greater than that

of the governments of other countries. We would take account of all these losses if there were to be a political resolution of the crisis.

Source Links Mossad To Salah Khalaf Killing

PM1701172591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 91 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Palestinian Source: Initial Interrogation Reveals Killer's Mossad Link"]

[Excerpts] Arab capitals, 'AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT agencies)—PLO leaders yesterday held an emergency meeting to discuss the assassination of three prominent Palestinian leaders and the threat of war in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a Palestinian security source in Tunis announced yesterday that the initial interrogation of the assassin of the three Palestinian leaders Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad), Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid (Abu-al-Hawl), and Fakhri al-'Umari revealed a Mossad link with the operation.

The source added that the interrogation also revealed that the killer used to meet regularly in Cyprus with an Israeli intelligence officer who had asked him to cooperate with one of the dissident Palestinian organizations and then to flee from that organization and join the Palestinian security organ.

The assassination was carried out Monday night by Hamzah Abu-Zayd, one of Abu-al-Hawl's guards, who was described by Fatah as an agent.

President Yasir 'Arafat's Adviser Nabil Sha'th has categorically denied that Salah Khalaf, Abu-Iyad, had come under pressure regarding the Gulf crisis.

His statement was in reply to the claim made by Israeli Knesset member Ran Cohen, speaking on an Israeli Arabic television program, to the effect that two Palestinian figures close to the PLO leadership, namely 'Arafat's Adviser Nabil Sha'th and PLO representative in the Netherlands Layla Shahid, had said that Abu-Iyad feared for his life because of his criticism of Iraq and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in connection with the Gulf crisis. Sha'th said that the claim made by Knesset and Ratz Movement member Cohen was "an unfounded and totally false claim." He added that Abu-Iyad visited Iraq several times, the latest being on 8 January with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, when he met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Sha'th expressed the belief that the Israeli deputy tried to talk about an Abu-Iyad opposition and pressures in order to divert attention from the part played by Mossad in the abominable crime resulting in the martyrdom of the three leaders in Tunis.

Palestinians Blame Israel

JN1601111191 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Jan 91 pp 1,5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" By Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—Palestinians reacted with shock and feelings of depression to the Monday night Tunis assassinations of Fatah's central committee members Salah Khalaf, better known as Abu-Iyad, Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid and Abu-Iyad's body-guard and blamed the Israeli secret-service, Mossad, for carrying out the killings.

Fatah's central committee member, 'Abbas Zaki said, there was no doubt that Mossad was behind the assassinations.

In a statement distributed to the press, Zaki said the killings were timed to coincide with the Jan. 15 deadline to "affect the morale of the Palestinians and Arabs and aimed at hitting the intifada."

"Despite the assassinations and other assassination attempts (on the Palestinian leadership), the Palestinian revolution will continue as long as there is a Palestinian people and Arab masses," Zaki stated.

He vowed that the intifada and revolution would continue until the liberation of Palestine.

The general reaction to the death of Abu-Iyad, who was second in command after Yasir 'Arafat in the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) mainstream Fatah faction, was of silent shock.

Palestinian ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim expressed shock to a reporter soon after the news of the assassinations was released.

"Oh God, I can't believe they (Israelis) did it to us again," the ambassador said.

As people paid respects and condolences at two PLO offices in Amman, a crowd of Palestinians at the al-Baq'ah refugee camp outside Amman staged a silent march to mourn the death of the Palestinian leaders, and hoisted black flags on the rooftops of the shacks.

Following a pick-up truck decorated with black and Palestinian flags and the Fatah emblem, some 150 people linked arms and walked in silence as verses from the holy Koran were recited through the truck's loudspeaker.

Marchers were heard blaming Israel for the murders of the Palestinian leaders. "May God break Israel," said an old woman wearing the Palestinian embroidered dress.

Another woman with a sleeping baby on her shoulder was weeping and said, "every time someone raises his head high, they kill him."

Leaders of the al-Baq'ah camp, the largest in Jordan with a population of 100,000, announced three days of

mourning but ruled out closing shops "because at such a time, people need to buy supplies in case of emergency."

Foreign journalists, who rushed to the camp expecting to find angry demonstrations, found a silent march and low spirits at the camp with the largest concentration of Palestinian refugees. Some residents of the camp advised Western journalists not to go to the camp saying it was possible that violence could be used against them.

"The people are so fed up with the West and Westerners that they're not exactly in the mood to see any of them here," said a al-Baq'ah camp doctor. However, no incidents against foreign journalists were reported.

"The people here are in a state of shock over the assassinations, especially at such a time," said one of the camp's leaders who goes by the name of Abu-Kifah.

He said he and many of the residents of the camp were convinced that the Israelis carried out the killings.

"The assassinations, carried out by the enemy, are aimed at provoking problems within the Palestinians' unified ranks and leadership," Abu-Kifah said.

Expelled Palestinian lawyer Ibrahim Bakr described the assassinations as "very tragic and depressing, especially that they coincided with the (Gulf) deadline."

Bakr said that the three Palestinians who died in Carthage just outside Tunis were "the first martyrs of the campaign waged against the Arab Nation."

For Palestinians, Abu-Iyad, who was head of military security, symbolised the armed struggle for liberating Palestine, something that has been widely welcomed from a Palestinian population who had given up hope on finding a diplomatic solution to the Palestinian problem.

During a recent visit to Jordan, Abu-Iyad, a co-founder of Fatah, attracted thousands of people in different auditoriums in Amman as he spoke in support of a Palestinian armed struggle.

"Everyday the Israelis commit massacres against our people in Palestine and nothing is happening. They need missiles to stop them," Abu-Iyad had told a cheering crowd of 8,000 on Jan. 1 commemorating Fatah's 26th anniversary.

"We have used arms in our resistance and we have also used politics. We have given concessions, but what have we gotten in return except more killings of our people?" he had asked. "It seems that the armed struggle is the only language they (Israelis) understand.

"They (Israelis) killed our good leaders and with Abu-Jihad (Khalil al-Wazir who was assassinated in April 1988) and now Abu-Iyad gone, we only have Abu-'Ammar (Yasir 'Arafat) left," said a mourner at the al-Baq'ah march.

Several Palestinians feared that the founders of the Palestinian revolutionary movement would all be "liquidated," and they criticised the carelessness of the Palestinian leadership in safeguarding their lives and security.

"It's unbelievable that the assassination took place right in front of the home of the head of the Security 'Abd-al-Hamid by someone hired by him", said an angry Palestinian.

Algeria

Iraqi Envoy Interviewed on Gulf Situation

LD1701152591 Algiers APS in English 1354 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 17 Jan (APS)—The charge d'affaires at the Iraqi Embassy to Algiers, Haamd Mochrif [name as received], declared Thursday here that the "morale of the Iraqi people and Army is very high and that they are determined to resist to the U.S. aggression".

In a telephone interview with APS, the Iraqi charge d'affaires indicated that "the Iraqi forces have up til now destroyed a great number of U.S. and Western planes during the American raid waged Thursday morning on Baghdad".

"The civilian and military objectives hit are not the ones aimed at by Americans and they have had no negative effect on the military power of Iraq."

After underlining that the war will last for a long time and that there will be a strong Iraqi reaction, the Iraqi charge d'affaires concluded that "the war still continues".

Foreign Ministry 'Forcefully' Condemns Gulf War

LD1701225491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1839 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] An official Foreign Ministry spokesman issued a statement following the outbreak of the Gulf war. The statement was carried by Algerian television. It says that this war shows inflexibility, the feeling of power, and the desire to dominate, while real power is the one which God Almighty bestows on whoever He wishes. He imposes on those He endows with this power to be wise and fair minded. Haughtiness and the feeling of power cancels out any chance to be flexible and to be able to concede, including rectifying the greatest mistake that was committed this century. The victim of this mistake was the heroic Palestinian people well over 40 years ago. The war that is being imposed on the fraternal Iraqi people was forcefully rejected by Algeria yesterday and today it condemns it most forcefully.

The official spokesman adds: The fate of the Arab nation has never been threatened so tragically as it is today. Algeria has never spared any effort to appeal to all the countries with whom it deals and with all those with good will in the world to work for better understanding and more flexibility in the course of searching for a solution that safeguards the higher interests of the Arab nation and achieves world peace; namely, a solution that relies on respect for international legitimacy and restoring the Kuwaiti leadership, and that safeguards Iraq, whose achievements and potential constitute a precious gain for all Arabs.

The Palestinian issue—the sacred Arab cause—which is present in the current conflict and in all crises which shake the Middle East—once again is a victim of the interests of the powers. It is ignored when it comes to international legitimacy which is claimed by those who shoulder the responsibility for the war. Algeria, which is very close to the fraternal Iraqi people, expresses its solidarity with them in this crisis that has been imposed on them. It appeals to all the peace and justice loving peoples to work earnestly for securing an immediate stop to military operations and the withdrawal of all the foreign forces and fleets from Iraq and Kuwait and the area, and an immediate start on the course of a peaceful settlement of the Middle East issue by holding an international conference.

The Foreign Ministry statement concludes: Algeria commits itself at this crucial stage in the history of the Arab nation to making the utmost efforts toward mobilizing and employing all the resources which will achieve a return to a state of permanent peace and stability in this region.

Hamrouche States Position on Gulf War 17 Jan

LD1701112891 Algiers APS in English 1006 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 17 Jan (APS)—"Algeria's position vis a vis the Gulf crisis is clear" stated Hamrouche, head of the government [prime minister] at the close of works of the seminar of FLN's (National Liberation Front) elected assemblies, noting in this regard that "we are against Kuwait's occupation and annexation by force for war's logics. Said he, is a threat of the national independence". [sentence as received]

"We are also against the presence of foreign forces in the region and destruction's threat of Iraqi forces", stressing that "the principal and actual question remains the cause of the heroic Palestinian people, expelled by force from their land".

Furthermore Hamrouche pointed out "all that happened is nothing but a result and a consequence of the method of this question's settlement", noting that there are three main points "the withdrawal from Kuwait, the problem of the annihilation of Iraq's military forces, and the overall settlement of Middle East question" thus, the point is in the way of arranging and examining these three data.

The West, said he, first demands the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait their the reduction of its military power to consider the possibility of settling the Middle East question. [sentence as received] In the contrary, Iraq does believe that the principal problem must be resoluted that is the Palestinian question before reducing all military forces in the region and eventually speak about Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait. Algeria, noted Hamrouche, rejects war's logic for the three points are negotiable.

"Opting for such a logic, would lead to Iraq's destruction and thus increasingly weaken the Arab nation once an overall settlement of the Middle East question could be [word indistinct], concluded Hamrouche.

President, Council of Ministers Discuss Gulf War

LD1701142891 Algiers APS in English 1339 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 17 Jan (APS)—The president of the republic gathered Thursday here the Council of Ministers in an extraordinary meeting devoted to the developments of the political and military situation in the Middle East. The Council of Ministers listened to communications from minister of foreign affairs, minister of interior and minister of national defence related to the immediate evolution of the positions of the parties directly implicated in the conflict and that of other countries, mainly Arab and Western ones.

The Council of Ministers examined possibilities of aggravation of or extention of the conflict as well as assessed the probabilities of setting up of a process of ending fighting and relaunch of negotiations.

The president of the republic recalled the permanent action of the external policy of the country from August 2, 1990 till the starting of hostilities, which consisted in seeking by all means any possibility of a peaceful solution that would be honorable to all the sides. He affirmed Algeria will conduct its multiform action in relation with the evolution of the conflict, in the only way of the safeguard of dignity, cohesion and mobilization of Arab peoples so as to avoid that solutions of weakening of their independence be imposed on them, by continuing to work for the immediate reestablishment of peace, the safeguard of unity and interests of the Arab nation, the unshakable support to the holy cause of the Palestinian people.

The president of the republic called for the extreme vigilance and the mobilization of all the institutions and exhorted the public opinion and political and social movements to unite in these crucial moments, to affirm in national discipline, their will to join up the evolution of the situation.

The Council of Ministers examined all the economic, social, security and defence measures adopted before the beginning of the conflict and took necessary measures for a future mastering of events.

General Places Army Units on 'Partial Alert'

LD1701110291 Algiers APS in Arabic 0955 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Algiers, 17 Jan (APS)—Brigadier Mohamed Touati, head of operations at the General Staff of the National People's Army, has announced that some units of the National People's Army have been put on partial alert.

Brigadier Touati said in a television statement that the Army has not been put on the highest state of alert. He also said that reservists have not been called up at all, and that this is unlikely. He said that an incidental strike against Algeria by Israel is possible, though unlikely.

The National People's Army has taken every precaution to confront any Israeli attempt and is closely following the development of the situation in the Gulf.

Brigadier Touati said in conclusion that the intervention of the National People's Army in the event of an outbreak of war depends on the decision of the political leadership.

Constantine Demonstrators Support Iraq

LD1701125591 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] We have a call from the radio station in Constantine, and to put it in context we would like to point out that according to AFP in Algiers, a group of Constantine residents this morning went to the French Consulate and caused disturbances there. Is this confirmed by our correspondent in Constantine, Mohamed Salah?

[Salah] Thank you. What I can say is that since the early hours of this morning the citizens here in the east have been showing signs of anger and they have taken to the streets to condemn America and its allies who launched a treacherous aggression on sister Iraq. Thousands of citizens have staged a pro-Iraq march and have chanted slogans for Iraq's victory and its leader Saddam Husayn and the Arab and Islamic nation. The demonstrators also chanted slogans against America and those who stand by it.

The demonstrators stood for a long while outside the French Consulate and the French Cultural Center to express their anger and their support for sister Iraq. They also asked the Arab rulers to open their borders to the Arab peoples to defend their dignity and sacred sites. [sentence as heard] The march is continuing.

Commentary Criticizes Arab Role Against Iraq

LD1801000991 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] At this grave and crucial period which the Arab nation is passing through as a result of the fierce onslaught to which the fraternal Iraqi people have been exposed since dawn today, one can pose a number of questions concerning the situation, especially in the shadow of Western intransigence.

These questions are manifested in the manner through which the war and its consequences can be confronted, and what can be done in the face of the aggression seeking the destruction of Iraq. The grave situation no longer gives one the chance to ponder and think of a formula toward a peaceful solution or to pose as neutrally toward the tragic events. Indeed, it requires a supporting stand—and this is what the Iraqi people expect—which lend them strength to confront the U.S. and Western aggression against them.

This stand should be polarized and shaped by patriotic forces so that it can be transformed into an actual act tangible to all the Arab masses. If we accept through this truth that the war is the first of its kind which has been waged with the blessing of the Soviet Union who signed the resolution of war at the UN Security Council, we find ourselves facing a new situation, completely different from previous wars engaged in by the Arab nation against the Zionist entity.

The second question is that the United States, which was content with giving military and financial aid to Israel, has become a major party in this war, and has intervened directly in the aggression against the Arab nation, partnered by Western sides, including France and Britain, and also by Arab states known for their loyalty to imperialism.

It has been clear since the beginning of the Gulf crisis that America and its allies have been planning a dirty and destructive war for the purpose of striking Arab potential and to gain more control over the resources of the Arab nation. America, while deciding the war against Iraq months ago, was aware that there are several Arab fronts which are secure and are not a possible platform for launching an attack on the U.S. forces.

It suffices to say that the states which fall within these fronts have turned themselves into allies and partners of America in America's aggression against Iraq. From here the division and disarray in the Arab rank has created a deep gap, and America has been able to enter the area in an atmosphere of security and tranquility. In addition there are many elements which have contributed to polarizing the U.S.-Western stand toward Iraq. These include the (?inflexibility) displayed by other Arab states against the U.S., French, and British intransigence.

Whatever the case may be, this is a war which will not last hours of days as those who planned have imagined [sentence as received]. It will be a destructive and comprehensive war in the area where it occurs. Its consequences will reach the far corners of the earth, particularly the interests of these states which believe that they will fetter the Arab nation into (?an external slavery).

Egypt

'Abd-al-Majid, UK's Hurd Discuss SCUD Attack

NC1801114791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1132 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] London, 18 Jan (MENA)—British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd telephoned Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today.

Addressing the House of Commons this morning, Hurd said he exchanged views with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid on the latest developments in the region in the wake of Iraq's SCUD missile attack on Israel yesterday and the developments of the military operations in the Gulf.

'Abd-al-Majid Issues Statement on Gulf War 17 Jan

NC1701155191 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1406 GMT GMT 17 Jan 91

[Statement by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to the Consultative Council's Foreign Relations Committee on 17 January in Cairo—recorded]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, members of the esteemed council: As I speak to you, our region is going through fateful, critical circumstances, with the whole world's attention focused here where events are developing very quickly. I want to inform you that at dawn today, I contacted the foreign ministers of a number of friendly and brotherly countries to exchange information, consult, and coordinate stands concerning this major event. It may be worthwhile for me to analyze the situation and to explain how our position has developed up to the events of today 17 January, marking the start of the liberation of Kuwait.

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 was an unprecedented event in the history of the Arab nation. Indeed, in the post-World War II era, it has been the first time that an Arab state marched into another Arab state, occupied it, and by force of arms removed its legitimate government. It then announced its annexation, thereby setting a serious international precedent in contravention of Arab and international conventions. The result has been to profoundly upset the security balance in the highly strategically important Middle East region.

Your esteemed council was the first to review the Gulf developments following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. On 4 August 1990 your committee issued a statement truly reflecting the pulse of the masses in their condemnation of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and in their demand for a total and immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces. Then on 22 August the general committee issued a statement supporting President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's historic and civilized stance on the crisis, appealing to Iraq to heed the peace calls with supreme Arab interests in mind and to spare the peoples of Iraq and the region the tribulations of war.

Ladies and gentlemen: The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the Iraqi military buildup along the Kuwaiti-Saudi border created anxiety and insecurity, thus prompting Saudi Arabia and certain Gulf states to seek aid and military assistance from brothers and friends, acting from their unquestioned right to self-defense—a principle enshrined in Article 2 of the Joint Arab Defense Pact, Article 6 of the Arab League Charter, Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, and endorsed by international norms and by the emergency Arab League summit resolution of 10 August 1990.

Aware of the risks and working within the framework of its Arab and international responsibilities, Egypt responded to the request of brotherly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, given that the Egyptian Armed Forces represent a shield for the entire Arab nation that stands by brothers and deters the aggressor.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has underlined the leading role played and still being played by the valiant Egyptian Armed Forces when he said before the People's Assembly and Consultative Council on 15 December 1990 that it was natural to respond to the appeal of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to help defend this dear Arab country and all the Arab peoples in the Gulf region regardless of the challenges. This is our mission and pledge. It is to support the brothers and to repel the aggressors.

Parallel to this courageous stand in confronting aggression was an intensive and persistant Egyptian diplomatic action, particularly within the framework of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, the nonaligned countries, and the United Nations. These moves sought as much as they could to avert a destructive war. A number of prominent officials and figures in Arab and foreign countries visited Baghdad within the framework of intensive diplomatic efforts in an attempt to convince the Iraqi president to listen to reason and to abandon the intransigent stands with no legitimate or legal bases.

To our deep regret, all these efforts and meetings again underlined Iraq's stand rejecting the will of the international community. Following the failure of the Geneva meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and his Iraqi counterpart, the UN secretary general went to Baghdad on behalf of the entire international community to convey a clear message to the Iraqi president calling on him to return to justice and to opt for peace. The UN secretary general announced the failure of his mission because of the Iraqi president's intransigence. Despite this, the secretary general addressed a last appeal to the Iraqi president calling on him to withdraw in order to remove the specter of war from the region.

Ladies and gentlemen: Out of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's commitment to Egypt's principled and noble stands, out of the Egyptian leadership's concern to preserve Arab solidarity, and in appreciation of the historic responsibility, the president has spared no effort to contain the tension and the escalation between Iraq and Kuwait.

His excellency has also sent 26 sincere appeals to the Iraqi president since the start of this tension. They started with the appeal issued by the presidential office on 20 July 1990; the last was addressed on 15 January 1991 [as heard] in which his excellency said: We have no dispute with the Iraqi people or the Iraqi president. Our stands stem from a deep belief in peace. His excellency sincerely advised the Iraqi president to make the decision for peace in order to protect the Iraqi people, all the Arab peoples, and all peoples who have become party to the crisis from the catastrophe of the war and its destructive consequences. We are leaving a list of these appeals with your respected committee.

Ladies and gentlemen: Following this detailed review of the efforts that Egypt, Arab, and other countries have exerted—which lasted six months but crashed on the rock of the Iraqi president's intransigence and his categorical rejection of every initiative and appeal to establish peace and avert war—at dawn today, the international community implemented the UN resolutions that stipulated the use of force. The basic targets were the Iraqi military centers. The aim is not to destroy Iraq but to liberate Kuwait.

The latest reports we have received indicate that there is still time to avoid more damage if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait immediately and completely.

At these critical moments, the Arab Republic of Egypt reiterates what it has always demanded since the start of the crisis—the need for Iraq's immediate response to the resolutions of the Security Council and international will. Hence, the Iraqi forces must withdraw unconditionally and completely from Kuwait. Kuwait must be liberated, and legitimacy must return to it so that it can exercise its positive role in the Arab and international community, God willing.

Ladies and gentlemen: Our region needs peace and the consecration of resources for construction and development for the sake of a better future for all our peoples.

In conclusion, I only beseech God Almighty to protect Egypt and give it security and safety. God's peace and blessings be with you.

MENA Denies Cairo Asked U.S. for Cease-Fire

NC1701162191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—The MENA correspondent at the Consultative Council has affirmed that the statement by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to the Consultative Council today did not contain any reference to an Egyptian request to the U.S. Administration for a cease-fire. This had been reported by the Cairo correspondent of Radio Monte Carlo.

Military Denies Report of Iraqi Tank Surrender

NC1701185891 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible military source has stated that the news reports talking about 50 Iraqi tanks crossing the Saudi-Kuwaiti border and surrendering in Hafr al-Batin are groundless. The source confirms that this report is inaccurate and baseless.

Mubarak, Arab Leaders Discuss Gulf on Phone 17 Jan

NC1701193491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhdafi, leader of the Libyan revolution this evening. He also received another call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. During the calls, there were consultations over the latest developments in the Gulf war.

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1920 GMT on 17 January also reports in a Riyadh-datelined item, "Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz was telephoned today by President Husni Mubarak.

["The two leaders expressed views on the current developments in the Arab Gulf region. The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed to President Mubarak and to the Egyptian Government and people his gratitude and thanks for their support for right, justice, and peace."

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1925 GMT on 17 January in another Cairo-datelined item also reports, "President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan tonight. The conversation dealt with the grave situation in the Gulf region."]

Al-Sharif on Cabinet Meeting, Strategic Reserves

NC1701142491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Following the meeting held by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi at his office today, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that the meeting reviewed developments since the battles began in the Gulf region in implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations and the international community after Iraq's rejection of all initiatives and appeals to find a peaceful solution to the crisis.

He said that the Egyptian political leadership under President Husni Mubarak has done all it can to make the Iraqi president listen to the voice of reason and logic and to spare the Arab region and the entire world from this war. He added that the last of these appeals made by President Mubarak to the Iraqi president was on the night of 16 January. Mubarak asked him to respond to the peace appeals, but the Iraqi leadership persisted in its intransigence, causing the war to break out.

The information minister noted that there is still an opportunity before the Iraqi leadership to declare an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and restoration of legitimacy to it.

Responding to a question, he said that Egypt is not involved in the military confrontation but has taken all necessary defensive and precautionary measures to confront any eventuality. He noted that Egypt's airports and ports are the only open points in the region now.

Safwat al-Sharif referred to President Mubarak's statement yesterday during his meeting with leaders of the political parties that Egypt's strategic reserves of basic commodities are ample and said that there is no need for Egyptian citizens to hoard any commodities.

The information minister concluded his statement by saying that the world is still willing to accept a response from the Iraqi president to the appeal of reason and logic, the implementation of resolutions that have been passed by the United Nations and the Arab and Islamic conferences since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the appeals addressed to the Iraqi president. These appeals included 26 from Egypt, including six oral messages and two written ones from President Mubarak, calling for a response to the appeal for peace, withdrawal, and restoration of legitimacy to Kuwait.

The meeting lasted two hours and was attended by People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur.

Papers Hope for Saddam's Withdrawal

NC1801081491 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Cairo papers this morning carry reports on the second air strike launched by the allied international forces to the Iraqi forces at 0830 yesterday. Hundreds of U.S. and French airplanes took part in the attack. AL-AHRAM cites the CNN correspondent in Baghdad that the allied aircraft are in full control of Baghdad skies and are waging continuous air raids beginning at dawn yesterday, at the rate of one raid every 15 minutes. The CNN correspondent said that he did not notice any Iraqi resistance by planes or antiaircraft rockets.

Writing under the headline: "What is Saddam Waiting for?" Ibrahimi Nafi' says in his weekly column "Calmly Speaking," in AL-AHRAM: Now it is open war, with all initiatives made by all peace advocates in the world having collapsed. Now, Nafi' says, it is too late to address new pleas to the ruler of Iraq who have been urged to choose peace by the sincere people and those who feel the historic responsibility for world nations, foremost among whom is President Husni Mubarak. The Iraqi ruler has decided to bring havoc to his people and his country.

What is going to happen now that war is a reality? Ibrahim Nafi' answers by saying: We are facing an unprecedented military buildup in a relatively limited geographical area. Over one million troops are deployed facing each other. On the battlefield, there are 15,000 armored vehicles, 4,000 artillery pieces, 1,500 U.S.

fighter planes, squadrons of B-52 bombers, as well as 500 Iraqi planes of Soviet and French make. [passage omitted]

Ibrahim Nafi' writes: The allied troops have carried out their tasks as expected. They launched a night attack in which they used their superior technology, the superiority about which we have been speaking for the past five months. We have also warned against the outcome of challenging such a superior force. The allied planes bombed their targets without Iraq firing one of its missiles which it used to boast about and without a single Iraqi plane appearing in the sky to do battle. [passage omitted]

Ibrahim Nafi' added: We hope that the current war will be one of limited damage and that Iraq will immediately announce its unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait so that the international demands concerning the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government there may be met in full. This would allow peace and stability to return to our troubled area and disturbed people.

AL-AKHBAR's editorial, entiteld "He Has Not Left the World Any Other Choice," deals with the same topic. The paper says: Up to the last minute preceding the first bombardment of Iraq, the Iraqi president could have spared himself and his people the affliction that is now upon them and that causes much pain and regret even for the worst of Saddam Husayn's enemies and those who loath his crimes.

No one wanted to see such a horrible tragedy befall the ill-fated Iraqi people who have the misfortune of being ruled by a man who relishes bloodshed and savors the sight of casualties and suffering.

AL-AKHBAR says that every Arab who loves his people and cares for the safety of his brothers hopes that the current tragedy will be over as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH expresses similar views in its editorial. The paper notes the continuation of Operation Desert Storm and says that the international community has tried to avoid war and persuade Saddam to abandon his intransigence, withdraw from Kuwait, and implement UN Security Council resolutions in this respect. Saddam Husayn, however, rejected the UN Security Council resolutions and spurned every Arab and international appeal for peace. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that despite the success of the planes and rockets in achieving the objectives of the first strike and launching a second strike, the international alliance has made it clear that Saddam Husayn still has a chance to declare his immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and thus end the current military operations. However, the strong-headed Saddam Husayn, who must be fully aware of the size and might of the Operation Desert Storm, has so far refused to bring an end [to the fighting] that may preserve the remnants of power and hope. History will certainly puzzle over such a character whose hobby was to play with fire and who has knowingly brought on himself the worst type of suicide.

Security Measures Adopted at High Dam Port

NC1701165491 Cairo MENA in English 1618 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Aswan, Jan 17 (MENA)—The High Dam Authority in Aswan has taken all measures to ensure the safety of the High Dam Port.

Incoming and departing passengers using the Aswan-Wadi Halfa service are carefully checked.

Major General Jamal-al-Din Shanwany, director general of the High Dam Port, said the Nile navigation authority have made preparations to accommodate passengers coming from the Gulf area.

Reportage on Butrus Ghali Visit to France

WA1701184491

For reportage on the visit by Butrus Ghali, minister of foreign affairs, to France, including reports on his talks with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, please see the France section of the 14 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Libya

Qadhdhafi Speaks With Foreign Leaders by Phone

Receives Call From Turkey's Ozal

LD1801155991 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Turkish President Turgut Ozal conducted a telephone conversation with the brother leader of the revolution after having heard that Turkey was being accused of beating the drums of war in the Gulf region.

The telephone conversation emphasized the need for not allowing Turkish soil to be used in the current war in the Gulf, the importance of military operations being limited to Kuwait, and that raids against Iraq should be halted.

In an interview with CNN yesterday, the brother leader of the revolution condemned the quarters that are beating the drums of war in the Gulf region.

Contacts Sudan's al-Bashir

LD1801001691 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Telephone contact was made yesterday between the brother leader of the revolution and Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council in Sudan. In the telephone conversation, the men discussed the explosive Gulf situation.

Converses With Egypt's Mubarak

LD1701184191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 17 January 1991, (JANA)—A telephone conversation took place today between the brother leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, during which the explosive situation in the Arab Gulf region was assessed.

Their views agreed on the necessity to work for [word indistinct] the attacks against Iraq and work for [word indistinct] so that these [word indistinct] would be very limited [words indistinct] Kuwait.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Gulf War 17 Jan

LD1701231591 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2018 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution met today with Libyan Arab university students within the framework of his instigatory role, and to guide the participants in the students' conferences in drafting the agenda for the basic People's Conferences. When the brother leader of the revolution entered the meeting hall he was received by the student masses with revolutionary cheers. This affirmed the strong determination to forge ahead toward building the popular Jamahiriyah, and the realization of comprehensive unity and of progress in Arab lands in confronting the challenge. The brother leader of the revolution addressed the student masses.

[Begin al-Qadhdhafi recording] The attack now being mounted by the fighting forces, which they call the liberation of Kuwait and the attack on Iraq: What can all the Arab countries do about it? A political effort—it is too late for a political effort. The brothers in Iraq should have responded to our political efforts in order to avoid this situation. They are obstinate; alright, God willing, God will make them successful. Until today they say: No compromise over Kuwait as Kuwait is part of Iraq. I mean, it is merely a state of nerves being tense. There is nothing else, so what can one do? As for Libya, it is the real adversary of imperialism and Zionism.

The iraqi issue is something that happened suddenly, as they [the west] tell Iraq: We were your friends and we helped you against Iran, and we built your Army for you. If you leave Kuwait, the friendship between you and us will continue. But Iraq tells them: If you leave me in Kuwait there will be no problem between you and me. Therefore it is a quarrel that has just suddenly happened. It is not basic or real.

'Abd an-Nasir was a real adversary of colonialism and Zionism. When he died the Jews congratulated each other, and on the day he resigned the Jews danced in the streets. They rejoiced, saying 'Abd an-Nasir has resigned. We have a real adversary.

Libya is on the blacklist as far as America is concerned. Only a week ago Bush sent a message to Congress telling it that Libya constitutes an extraordinary danger to the interests of America in the world, and consequently its boycott should continue and it should be placed on the blacklist. Libyan policy adopts terrorism, he said. Support for the armed struggle of nations means terrorism. He gave them examples: He mentioned terrorist Palestinian organizations; he mentioned the Philippines, as there are U.S. bases in the Philippines, and the Organization for the Liberation of the Philippines is supported by Libya. He mentioned Latin America, too. Libya has been an old adversary; this has not just happened overnight. We consider ourselves to be at the end of the muzzle of a gun at all times, whether they attacked Iraq or not.

Our strategic program in confronting imperialism, the necessity of establishing Arab unity and resisting Zionism, and obliterating it, is a fundamental and established fact. For this reason revolutions are staged in the Arab world; for this end we sacrifice. As for our program of establishing the people's authority this is important. You are witnessing a people whose fate is being decided by one man.

Of course, we wish Iraq to triumph and America to be defeated, and that today or tomorrow the Iraqis will hit the Israelis and destroy Tel Aviv. That would be nice. It would be brilliant for one to bring about such disorder. But the war came about by accident, not according to a pan-Arab strategy, which one can indeed trust and rely on. Had this been done by 'Abd An-Nasir, by God we would have said: This is a sensible man and a real opponent of the enemy, a man who shows concern for this nation, and his history from the first day to the last day is above doubt. But we are from the political point of view with the international community. We exert effort: At dawn I asked the Security Council and UN General Assembly that the operations should be limited to the recovery of Kuwait, that the bombardment of Baghdad must be halted, and that the battle should not develop further.

This is what we can do. What more than this can we do? There is not any coordination among us, and we have no plan among ourselves. We tell you (?from now), anything from the radio until the Gulf or Kuwait. [as heard] If oil is yours, the confrontation of America in the Gulf of Sidra, at al-Rabitah, or anywhere. [as heard]

Of course, we do not exclude that they may attack al-Rabitah under any circumstances; even if it is a pharmaceutical factory, they say we must eliminate it. They look for an opportunity to do it, saying this is a factory against the Israelis, and the Americans now defend the Israelis.

There is no one else responsible for all these issues other than you. Like your non-Libyan Arab students who are your guests here. In the morning they gathered. One came and said: Brothers, there are two things in Libya;

you want to go and fight for Iraq, we do not prevent it like others. If you want, you can go. You want to fight for Libya? The turn of Libya will come. So please go and prepare yourself. But to hold a demonstration: Whom do you want to incite when you organize a demonstration? Is there a government in Libya with Americans or Israelis on whom you want to put pressure? There is not. Sit and drink coffee. If you want to go to Iraq, go today. You want to go to the Gulf of Sidra? Go and train. You want to stage a sit-in at al-Rabitah? Please go, and expect a missile (?to hit it some time).

What more than this? You can demonstrate in another country, where the people have no freedom. All these matters are related. It is important to affirm people's authority, and this is a historic opportunity, so that no one gambles with you, as happened in the past. Do you know that there are those who handed you over to Turkey, others who handed you over to the Italians, and others who handed you over to the English? When they brought you five American bases, who was the Libyan they had consulted or who decided this? It was possible for us to pay for this in thousands and thousands of martyrs. Why? Because our affairs were in the hands of a person, a government, a gang, or a group. This is our opportunity, this is a matter of life and death. These are battles in which thousands and millions die. [end recording]

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Saddam To Withdraw

LD1701171991 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1706 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli 17 Jan (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution yesterday evening summoned the Iraqi charge d'affaires to the great Jamahiriyah and handed him a message addressed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The leader urges him, after the expiration of the UN Security Council deadline for the deployment of the military option, to withdraw from Kuwait, and he adds that a withdrawal would not be considered something done under U.S. threat in order to avoid war. However, regrettably, the Iraqi president did not respond to that call.

Jallud, Jabir Return from Foreign Visits

LD1701173591 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1701 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 17 January (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd-al-Salam Ahmad Jallud returned to the Great Jamahiriyah this evening after concluding a visit to Jordan, Iraq, and Iran.

Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir also returned to Tripoli after a short visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt during which he had a meeting with president Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Morocco

King Hassan Chairs Meeting on Gulf Crisis

LD1701234591 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The Information Ministry has issued the following communique:

As soon as the outbreak of battles in the Gulf was announced, His Majesty King Hassan II chaired a meeting of the [Gulf] Crisis Cell between 0100 to 0430. During the meeting His Majesty the King, who is following the development of confrontation in the Middle East, defined the precautionary measures which should be taken in all areas, whether at national or regional levels.

2. Regarding the meeting which the government held today, the Information Ministry issued the following communique:

A meeting of the government was held today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Dr. Azzedine Laraki. The meeting was devoted to studying the situation in the Gulf following the outbreak of war. The Council of the Government expresses its pain at the situation in the area, and expresses its regret for the failure of all peaceful attempts and initiatives aimed at preventing this war and the [word indistinct] the military option to solve the crisis. The Council expresses the fact that fraternal Arab countries are aware of the death of their citizens and sons and the destruction of economic developments and military installations.

The government, while closely following the development of events, believes there is still some scope for a return to reason in order to limit the catastrophe of war, and hopes that reason and wisdom will prevail as soon as possible over the language of death and destruction so that more blood will not be shed. [Words indistinct] so that the acts of destruction will stop and rights are restored to their owners within the framework of law and legitimacy, and Kuwait and Iraq will once again become brothers and return to the Arab fold as two members, and together with their other brothers—the Arab countries—[words indistinct] the fateful issues which preoccupy us, at the forefront of which the issue of Arab Palestine.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Calls for Cease-Fire in Gulf

AB1801101891 Paris AFP in French 2016 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan (AFP)—General Umar al-Bashir, leader of the Sudanese military junta, called today for a cease-fire in the Gulf war "before it is too late." In an address at a mass rally, Gen. al-Bashir appealed to the United Nations, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Arab League to work toward this objective.

Gen. al-Bashir also urged Arab and Muslim countries to "close their ranks" and "stick to the Koran to defend their rights." In conclusion, he reiterated his country's "opposition to war and to the foreign military intervention in the Gulf."

Amman Radio on RCC Spokesman Jihad Declaration

NC1701200991 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] A spokesman for the Sudanese Government has declared a jihad in support of Iraq, which is coming under American-Zionist aggression.

In a statement to the Sudanese paper AL-INQADH, the Sudanese spokesman said a jihad will erupt all over the Gulf region and that its effects will be far-reaching.

The statement adds that it is the duty of Muslims all over the world to defend Islam, and Iraq is doing so.

Khalifah Addresses Arab 'Democratic Forum'

EA0901172891 Khartoum SUNA in English 0914 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 9 January (SUNA)—Member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], chairman of Peace and Foreign Affairs Department Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah has emphasised the steps taken by the revolution towards the realisation of the national liberalisation and the overall Arab Islamic unity. The RCC member, addressing the Arab Revolutionary Democratic Forum currently on [word indistinct] here, has called for holding an Arab summit to seek an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

The gathering was also addressed by the housing minister, Dr. Husayn Abu Salih, deputy commissioner of the national capital and the Libyan ambassador.

Meanwhile the gathering sent a message to the internationalist leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the RCC chairman General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir hailing their efforts toward achievement of the Arab unity. The message has commended the recent introduction of shari'a [Islamic law] in Sudan.

Pro-Iraq Students Demonstrate in Khartoum

AB1701141491 Paris AFP in French 1347 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan (AFP)—A demonstration of support for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn following the launching of hostilities in the Gulf took place today in the center of Khartoum, eyewitnesses have reported. Between 2,000 and 3,000 students, brandishing portraits of President Saddam Husayn and Iraqi flags, marched through the central part of the Sudanese capital chanting slogans such as: "With our blood, with our souls, we shall sacrifice ourselves for Saddam," and "Towards a holy war."

Foreign embassies, and particularly U.S. and British Embassies, are being watched by police units. The Egyptian Embassy has also been placed under increased protection. The Government of Sudan, one of the countries in the region that refused to condemn the invasion of Kuwait, has yet to react today over the launching of the international offensive against Iraq.

For their part, the people of Sudan early this morning gathered in small groups to follow the events on the radio. Sudan's national radio station, Radio Omdurman, modified its programs to report on the latest developments in the Gulf.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Receives Phone Call From King Husayn

LD1701175791 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received a telephone call from King Husayn of Jordan this afternoon. The two men talked about the latest developments in the Gulf.

RCD Issues Statement on Gulf Hostilities

LD1801030191 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The Political Bureau of the Constitutional Democratic Rally [RCD] met Thursday evening under the chairmanship of Dr. Hamed Karoui, deputy chairman of the Rally. The Bureau issued a statement, the text of which follows:

War broke out in the Gulf region and what we feared happened, despite the endless sincere and benevolent efforts which Tunisia and several parties had made to prevent the dangerous spreading of the conflict and its development into a war, which is destructive for the Arab region and international peace. The Constitutional Democratic Rally calls on all parties to abide by international legitimacy and believes that the time has come for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East. Inspired by its revolutionary struggle and its pride in the response by the leadership and the people in this crisis, the Constitutional Democratic Rally expresses its conviction that our brave people, as they have always done, know that events in such circumstances require more self-restraint and continuous vigilance, in addition to rallying around the leadership.

Ennahdha Movement Spokesman Interviewed

LD0901205891 Paris International Service in French 1230 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] In Tunisia, the Islamic movement Ennahdha, which is not recognized officially, is trying to play the publicity card. To do this, the movement published for

the first time a list of its officials. Listen to Ennahdha spokesman Hamadi Jebali answering the questions of Farida Ayari:

[Begin recording] [Jebali] We have announced our initiative to (?readjust) our structures by announcing the creation of a consultative committee, which is a supreme body between congresses, comprising 60 members (?among) the leaders, expansion of the membership of the executive bureau from six to 10 members, and the creation of six regional bureaus all over the country. This comes within the framework of our political guideline which consists in extending political and legal action aimed at requesting the legalization of our party.

[Ayari] So this is the first thing you are going to do now?

[Jebali] Yes, we do not want to fall in the trap of the authorities, who want to push us into secrecy and what they call violent acts. [end recording]

That was the spokesman of the Tunisian Islamicist movement Ennahdha. Rida Boughezi, you are our correspondent in Tunis. The Tunisian Islamic movement is therefore playing the publicity card as a means of evading the authorities' accusations. The Tunisian government has accused the Islamicists of having a secret organization.

[Boughezi] At his press conference held on the premises of EL- FAJR, newspaper of the Ennahdha movement, Mr. Mourou asserted that the Islamicist movement would probably renew its application for legalization of its political party. This procedure is aimed, according to him, at ensuring legality and openness in the activity of a movement which does not claim to be clandestine, or military, or political. By uttering the word military, Mr. Mourou knew well what he was talking about. He was alluding to the involvement of the Ennahdha movement in the case of the Islamicist network which was dismantled recently and which included, other than the military members, several members of the police and the customs.

The Islamicist leader denied anew any involvement of his party in the activities of this network. Mr. Mourou, who is considered to be one of the moderate Islamicists, also denied Ennahdha's responsibility in the clashes which have been regularly taking place these recent days between Islamicist demonstrators and the police. The latest demonstration took place Monday evening in the Le Bardo quarter, not so far from Tunis. Tires were burned and gasoline bombs were thrown by Islamicists at cars and public buildings, including police premises. Disturbances also occurred in some colleges in Tunis. This unrest was attributed by the ruling party to extremist movements, which have been denounced by the Tunisian Women's Union, as being the exponents of violence.

Kuwait

Government Issues Statement on Operations

LD1701193291 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has stressed that the military operations which began at dawn today, Thursday, to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, was necessary in order to firmly establish the principle of international legitimacy, implement the UN Security Council resolutions, and impose respect for the basis of international law and conventions.

A statement issued by the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers after today's dawn meeting, held under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, says that the world has exhausted all possible means to ensure the withdrawal of the aggressive Iraqi forces from Kuwait peacefully. The statement adds: By its impudence and arrogance, the Iraqi regime deliberately closed the doors to all benevolent attempts, the last of which was the one made by the UN secretary general.

The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers regard the operation to liberate Kuwait as a necessity to restore what is right, and to remove tyranny and injustice from the Kuwaiti people, who have borne and suffered all kinds of tyranny, killing, and torture that contradicts the teachings of divine religions and all the bases of international law and human rights.

The Kuwait Council of Ministers' statement says: The council has followed with great interest the commencement of operations to liberate Kuwait from the desecration of the treacherous Iraqi aggression, and the statements concerning the operations. The council expresses its gratitude to all the countries participating in the liberation operation.

Minister Affirms All Kuwaitis Can Return

LD1801140091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 16 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Al-Ta'if (SAWT AL-KUWAYT—KUNA)—Commenting on rumors that Kuwaiti citizens would not be allowed to immediately enter Kuwait after liberation, Dr. Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub, minister of National Assembly affairs and information, has affirmed that all Kuwaitis "will enter their beloved country, Kuwait, after it is soon liberated, God willing, and sooner than they expect. Vigilance and caution demand, however, that Kuwait be cleansed of all the effects and filth of the aggression first, to ensure the security and stability of all the dear citizens in accordance with all of our aspirations.

Al-Ya'qub said: "The operation of entering Kuwait, God willing, will be organized in a manner compatible with the public interest. All the particular details concerning the return will be announced in due course. What is important at this stage is for everyone to concert their efforts and to act as one man in order to eliminate all tendentious rumors which are aimed at spreading insecurity within the ranks of the citizens."

Minister al-Ya'qub affirmed the Kuwaiti Government's concern to provide all the means and facilities for a safe return to the beloved homeland.

In another development, al-Ya'qub issued a statement yesterday declaring Kuwait's strong condemnation of the assassination of Fatah leaders Salah Khalaf and Hayil 'Abd-al-Hamid.

Dr. al-Ya'qub said: This criminal operation that took the lives of two leaders of the Fatah movement, which began its first activities and was reared in Kuwait's embrace in the sixties, is a fresh evidence that the enemies of the Arab nation are determined in their attempts to suppress the Palestinian struggle. The minister expressed the conviction that these criminal operations will never succeed in silencing the voice of the Palestinian people or eliminating their aspirations for freedom, justice and the right to self-determination.

Dr. al-Ya'qub affirmed that the Kuwaiti people, "who themselves have been experiencing bitter occupation for more than five months now as a result of the Iraqi invasion, are fully and absolutely committed to supporting the struggle of the brothers in the occupied Palestinian territory with all their power."

Finally, Dr. al-Ya'qub extended sincere condolences to the Khalaf and 'Abd-al-Hamid families in the name of Kuwaiti amir and Government.

Cabinet Minister Reports Iraqi Casualties

NC1701173991 Paris AFP in English 1724 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Jan 17 (AFP)—Iraqi soldiers suffered hundreds of casualties during Thursday's fighting with allied forces, a high-ranking Kuwaiti official said here.

After he contacted two doctors in Kuwait, Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, who spoke at a press conference here, said he learned that two 500-bed hospitals in Kuwait were filled to overflowing.

Mr. al-'Awadi did not say how many people were in the hospitals before the fighting started.

Mr. al-'Awadi also said that four separate sources told him that an undetermined number of Iraqis were defecting.

Plane Reported Lost While Flying Mission

NC1701190091 Paris AFP in English 1843 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, Jan 17 (AFP)—A Kuwaiti plane flying with U.S.-led forces attacking Iraq was lost on a mission over the emirate, officials of Kuwait's exiled government said Thursday.

In a statement cited by the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY received here, Kuwaiti Defense Minister Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah said Kuwaiti aircraft had carried out their assigned missions during the sorties.

Kuwaiti warplanes have been participating with U.S., British and Saudi air forces in the air and missile attack launched since early Thursday to try to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait, which Baghdad's troops invaded August 2.

Most of Kuwait's air force pilots flew to Saudi Arabia after the invasion.

Saudi Arabia

Allied Joint Forces Issue Communique No. 1

LD1701174291 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1710 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Joint Forces Communique No. 1]

[Text] At dawn today, Thursday 2 Rajab 1411, corresponding to 17 January 1991, formations of the Saudi and Kuwaiti Air Forces and of the allied U.S., British and French Air Forces strafed targets—Iraqi military installations and bases—starting the implementation of the joint operations plan, Desert Storm, for the liberation of sister Kuwait. Aerial bombing has achieved its objectives accurately, and all our planes have returned to their bases safely.

With the start of the aerial bombardment, orders were given to the forces of the advanced positions in Al-Khafji, which had been evacuated of civilians, and in other positions to move to the main positions out of range of the aggressor's artillery, in accordance with the plan. In response to our successful aerial operations, the aggressor shelled the Al-Khafji region with artillery, as expected. Some of the oil storage tankers there were hit. The elements of civil defense have controlled the fire, which was extinguished except in two storage tankers. Attempts to put this fire out continue. There has been no loss of life. Our forces immediately destroyed the source of the hostile fire.

Allied Spokesman Says No Saudi Cities Attacked

LD1701195991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Brigadier General Fahd Al-Jarbu', emphasized in his answers to journalists' questions that the Kingdom has taken all precautions to confront any attack on any part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He denied that Iraqi missiles have been launched against any of the Kingdom's cities. He explained that he had heard about the fleeing of Iraqi forces and said: I cannot confirm any detailed information. About the participation of Kuwaiti forces, Brigadier General Al-Jarbu' said: They did participate in this operation.

King Fahd Addresses Council on Gulf War

LD1701172191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 17 January SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud presided over an extraordinary session of the council of ministers this afternoon, Thursday 17 January at al-Yamamah palace in Riyadh.

After the session, Minister of Information, 'Ali al-Sha'ir, made a statement to the media in which he said:

The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander in chief of the Saudi armed forces, opened today's session with the following noble statement:

Praise be to God who has promised us victory in his words: "...and it was ever a duty incumbent upon us, to help the believers." [Koranic verse] Peace and prayers be upon the messenger of God, the faithful struggler, and upon his family and companions until the day of judgement.

God has willed it, and God is wise in whatever He does, that the ruler of Iraq, Saddam Husayn, should persist in rejecting all the just Arab and Islamic resolutions, and the resolutions of the Security Council, which represents international legitimacy. He thus aborted all the intensive and continued efforts made by world leaders to save the situation and to prevent the calamity of war in the Arab nation, which Saddam Husayn has determined to stir up by his categorical refusal to withdraw his forces from the state of Kuwait which he invaded on Thursday, 2 August 1991, and caused the killing, banishment, violation of honor, and plundering of wealth that then took place.

There is no doubt that the world has been following with us all the successive calls and appeals since the occupation until yesterday, Wednesday, in the hope that Saddam Husayn would respond to all the appeals and attempts and yield to the sound of right and the call of the conscience.

God Almighty said in His noble book: "Truly it is not their eyes that are blind, but their hearts, which are in their breasts" [Koranic verse]. The military operations that started at dawn today for the liberation of Kuwait represent the sword of right and the voice calling for lifting injustice and setting things right, as well as representing the international resolutions.

I appealed to President Saddam Husayn on more than one occasion and in more than one place, to fulfill God's

order, spare the bloodshed, and preserve the souls of the innocent. But he refused, displayed arrogance, overstepped the bounds, acted as a tyrant, and refused to listen to the calls of right, justice, and peace.

Therefore, it has become necessary to set things right and implement the resolutions calling for the liberation of Kuwait. We beseech God to make his soldiers victorious, as he said." And that our forces, they surely must conquer" [Koranic verse]

The information minister added: "Following that, the custodian of the two holy mosques gave the council a brief outline of all the meetings and contacts he had during the past two days, all of which aimed at convincing the Iraqi president to return to the correct path."

After that, as directed by the King, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, outlined to the council how the military operations have proceeded between 0250 and 1600 today.

In conclusion Minister al-Sha'ir said: "In light of this, the king issued his directives to the council in accordance with the requirements of the current circumstances and through the council he sent—may God preserve him—his special greeting to his sons, the commanders, officers and men of the Saudi armed forces, and ultimately to all the fraternal Arab and Islamic forces and the friendly forces participating in the multinational force. He wished them all victory and success in their just task to uphold right and defeat falsehood and support the victims of injustice.

Thanks Mubarak for Support

LD1701182991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud today received a phone call from his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Views on the current events in the Arab Gulf region were exchanged during the call.

It is worth noting that Egyptian forces are among the brotherly Arab forces currently in the frontline. SPA has learned that the custodian of the two holy mosques expressed gratitude and appreciation to his brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for the stance of the Egyptian government and people in support of justice and peace.

Interior Ministry Says Situation Peaceful

LD1701173191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1650 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Jan (SPA)—The following statement was issued by His Royal Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior and chairman of the Higher Council for Information:

The Interior Ministry would like to announce to all citizens and residents in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's territories that peace and stability prevail throughout and in the skies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and that everything is progressing normally in all its regions.

His Royal Highness added: While announcing this to everyone, the Interior Ministry would like to reaffirm the content of its statement issued on 27 Jamadi al-Akhirah 1411 AH, corresponding to 13 January 1991 AD.

Spokesman Announces Destruction of Iraqi SCUD

LD1801042591 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] A military spokesman for the Saudi Arabian joint command and operations theater announced that today at dawn the launching of a non-chemical SCUD missile from Basra in Iraq directed to the eastern region was discovered by the concerned observation quarters.

The spokesman added: The concerned air defense monitored the path of the missile and destroyed it in the air at an altitude of 17,000 feet using counter missiles.

Crown Prince Contacts UAE Leader on Gulf

LD1801141191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 18 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, today held a telephone conversation with His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates. The situation in the Arab Gulf region in the light of the events and developments of the past two days were reviewed during the call.

SPA Criticizes Algerian Ministry Statement

LD1801140491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1105 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 18 Jan, (SPA)—Commenting on the Algerian Foreign Ministry statement reported by the ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY on Thursday, 17 January, the SPA political editor said:

We have examined the statement issued by the Algerian Presidency which was indeed at the level of the events in content and spirit. Then we examined the Algerian foreign ministry statement and found that it transgressed the reality conceived by everyone when it said: The tragedy reached its height after the intensive military intervention by an international alliance, led by the biggest Western military forces, against brotherly Iraq.

We are surprised at the issuance of that statement by the Foreign Ministry of a sisterly country whose leader, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, has been—and is still—making intensive and persistent efforts to avert what took place at dawn yesterday, Thursday. We had

hoped that Saddam Husayn would listen to President Bendjedid's advice, and we appreciate the efforts he made during his tour of Arab capitals.

The Algerian Foreign Ministry statement points to an Arab solution, and says: It is possible to find a just and honorable solution to the Arab Gulf crisis in an Arab framework through dialogue and negotiation.

It would seem that the Algerian Foreign Ministry forgot that a political solution has had priority since the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's hosting of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations in the city of Jeddah only a few hours before the Iraqi invasion in order to give diplomats a chance to negotiate, talk, and arrive at a suitable solution acceptable to the two parties. Iraq's intransigence aborted this effort; however, and it was immediately followed by the unjust attack.

Then came the other efforts for a solution within the framework, when His Excellency President Husni Mubarak called for an emergency Arab summit in Cairo, which the Iraqi delegation tried to undermine with the support of some other unknown states. The voice of right triumphed; however, and the summit passed resolutions by a majority calling for the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy to it, as well as for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

A third attempt at mediation, represented in a number of Arab initiatives, failed due to the intransigence of President Saddam Husayn and his rejection of all solutions.

So where is the absence of Arab efforts referred to in the statement of the Algerian Foreign Ministry? The appeal by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to invite fraternal Arab and Islamic forces and friendly forces is in support of the Saudi forces in their defense of the Kingdom and, in consequence, the triumph of right over wrong.

On that basis, we can say that the pressure of the multinational forces in the eastern part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia came about as an inevitable result of the Iraqi aggression on the state of Kuwait, and to confront the Iraqi amassment which advanced its machinery and equipment to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's border.

Considering the above, we find that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in cooperation and coordination with its sincere brothers, leaders of Arab and Islamic countries, has tried hard over the past five months to save the region from the tragedy it is experiencing now. In many speeches and on many occasions, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, urged Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to implement the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions. The last of these [appeals] was at the end of his message to Saddam Husayn, which was in reply to his [Saddam's] open letter. [passage omitted]

The Algerian Foreign Ministry statement, regarding the Palestine issue, said: It has again become a victim of the interests of power and disregard of international legitimacy which it is claimed [to be upheld] by those who have taken responsibility for war. We would like to recall here that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been, and still is, at the forefront of the countries which have borne the burden of that issue since its early days. It has defended it at all levels, offered the issue backing and support throughout all the stages of the issue, and it has fulfilled its material and moral obligations toward it out of its belief in the issue and its eagerness to realize the Palestinian people's demand, their right to return to their homeland, self-determination, and to establish their independent state on their territories. As for the cause of delay in the progress of the Palestinian issue, which was coming close to the gates of victory, it was President Saddam Husayn's aggression on the state of Kuwait that created division and disunity in the Arab world at a time when the Arab nation as a whole was moving toward solidarity and unity to serve its issues of destiny.

On the basis of what we have mentioned and explained, and with due respect to the Algerian Government and people, we find that the Algerian Foreign Ministry statement has distorted the facts that are known and perceived by those who are sincere and fair.

Tornado 'Anti-Aircraft Fire' Report Explained

LD1801074291 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0642 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By Finlay Marshall, PRESS ASSOCIATION, in Bahrain]

[Text] Tornado aircraft from the Arabian Gulf continued to mount sorties against Iraq airfields today. One fighter bomber was slightly damaged by a buzzard as it flew home to base. The large bird hit the outer edge of the port wing causing serious damage to the leading edge. The pilot had reported being hit by anti-aircraft fire but ground staff gleefully plucked feathers from the damaged area, and flight Sergeant Dave Crowe, the area superintendent, told the airman: "You weren't shot at all. It looks like a hawk or buzzard did it."

A new section of wing was being fitted over the next few hours to return the aircraft to battle readiness. Other pilots said there had been heavy anti-aircraft fire over their target but all the aircraft successfully completed their missions. The RAF is continuing to mount round-the-clock missions against Iraqi targets. The Tornados have been specifically given the job of cratering runways and laying anti-personnel devices to keep Saddam Husayn's airforce out of the skies.

Czechoslovak Delegation Ends Visit; Departs

AU1701141991 Prague CTK in English 1118 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 15 (CTK correspondent)—Czechoslovak Army representatives, visiting Saudi

Arabia since January 12, were received by Chief of Staff of the Saudi Army 'Abd-al-'Aziz today.

The talks were very open and they concerned the development and intensification of cooperation between the two countries and the conditions of the Czechoslovak decontamination regiment based in Saudi Arabia since mid-December.

The delegation was led by Deputy Defense Minister Major-General Antonin Rasek and included several Federal Assembly deputies and Presidential Adviser Jiri Krizan.

After finishing the talks the delegation returned home by a special army plane that had brought provisions and spare parts to the decontamination unit.

United Arab Emirates

Interior Ministry on Liberation Operation

NC1701183291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1745 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Jan (WAKH)—The United Arab Emirates has said that it will always remain in support of the brothers, an advocate of Arab and Islamic causes, and an oasis of security, cohesion, and stability.

A responsible Interior Ministry source said that since 2 August 1990, the Arab world has experienced one of its most difficult ordeals, which was the result of the Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait and its outcome in terms of destruction, rape, and violation of human rights.

The source added that Arab, Islamic, and international efforts have been exerted in the past months to urge Iraq to withdraw peacefully from Kuwait and to comply with the will of the international community. When these efforts met with no response from the Iraqi regime, which continued its aggression and defiance of the will of the community, the allied troops began the operation at dawn today to liberate Kuwait in implementation of UN resolutions.

The source underscored the need to observe the state's laws, adding that any violation or excess will be met with deterrent legal measures.

Defense Minister Reports to Cabinet

NC1801161591 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 18 (GNA)—The UAE cabinet today held an emergency session to discuss the allied operation to liberate Kuwait from the Iraqi occupation.

A report on the situation was presented by Defense Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid al-Maktum who is also chairman of the ministerial defence and security committee.

The meeting was chaired by Vice President and Prime Minister Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid al-Maktum and attended by Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan along with other cabinet members.

The cabinet also heard a report from the interior minister on the internal situation, which the report said was normal and safe.

The cabinet instructed all institutions in the country to carry out their duties and responsibilities normally to achieve the welfare of the citizens.

Yemen

Deputies Condemn 'Aggression' Against Iraq

EA1701195491 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] This morning the Council of Deputies continued its proceedings of the first session of the second annual convention under the chairmanship of Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, the chairman of the Council of Deputies. At the outset of the meeting, the members of the council recited the opening chapter of the Koran for the soul of the deceased of the homeland, Shaykh Ahmad 'Ali al-Matari, who died last night.

Next the council reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf and the military attack on Iraq by the U.S. forces and their allies. The Council of Deputies condemned this aggression aimed against our Arab and Islamic nation and its resources. In the council's view, if the United States wanted to contribute to settling the dispute which brought it to the Gulf in the first place, then this is an unnecessary war. Embarking on hostilities and war as an alternative to a peaceful solution underlines beyond all doubt the real objectives and intentions behind the foreign presence in the peninsula and the Gulf. Our country has drawn attention to this many times.

The Council of Deputies called on all good Arab, Islamic, and international forces to exert and mobilize their efforts to solve the problem peacefully. The forces of hegemony have ignored all these efforts and calls and have persisted with their plans—which are being implemented today through the use of destructive weapons against fraternal Iraq. The Council of Deputies calls on all Arab and Muslim people and all peaceloving people and their legislatures to work very hard to stop this war of aggression and move toward this peace which has been rejected by the forces of hegemony.

The council called on our Yemeni people to exercise a high degree of vigilance and to strengthen their national unity under these circumstances, which are witnessing dangerous challenges aimed at all our nation's holy places as well as its civilization and survival. We are absolutely confident in the strength and will of our people which is derived from the will of God to resist the forces of tyranny. God is able to give them victory.

The council of deputies will resume this meeting on 19 January.

Government Councils Meet, Reject Attack on Iraq

EA1701212691 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] This morning a joint meeting of the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers was held under Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. The participants considered the latest developments in the region considering the military attacks by the United States and its allies on fraternal Iraq. The following statement was issued after the meeting:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: The Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers have considered the painful developments affecting the current crisis in the Gulf and peninsula regions, namely the outbreak of armed conflict at 0230 on Thursday, 7 [as heard] January 1991 under the command of the United States and forces allied to it to implement military action aimed basically at destroying fraternal Iraq and inflicting heavy material and human losses on the Iraqi people, who are part of the Arab and Islamic nation, in addition to destroying Arab resources. This is a flagrant challenge to the declared will of the world which rejects war and opposes the use of force. This constitutes conduct rejected by the age of international detente.

In confirmation of our country's firm stance as declared since the inception of the differences between Iraq and Kuwait and calling for the peaceful settlement of all problems between brothers within an Arab framework, the Presidential Council and Council of Ministers wish to announce publicly their unequivocal rejection of the use of force to settle a problem between two neighboring Arab countries.

The Republic of Yemen, whose earnest and sincere efforts to bring about peace, security, and stability remote from foreign interference have never changed, reiterates its adherence to this course and its determination to make intensive efforts to stop the military operations and have the parties concerned sit at the negotiating table to solve all the problems facing the Arab region, including the Arab-Israeli conflict and all the tension emanating from it, with the aim of achieving peace and security in the whole Middle East.

The Republic of Yemen calls on the international community in general and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in particular to halt this hemorrhage. These states should discharge their full responsibility by arriving at a permanent and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The current armed conflict in the Gulf and peninsula regions is a sad manifestation arising from double standards, neglect, and procrastination in implementing international legitimacy as represented by binding resolutions issued by the UN Security Council decades ago.

Yemen has registered its objection to UN Security Council Resolution 678 out of awareness that applying the resolution would bring ruin and destruction and human woes and tragedies as well as destabilization of international security and would subject international interests to enormous dangers and heavy damage.

Foreign Minister Affirms Peace Efforts

NC1801120291 Cairo MENA in English 1141 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Sanaa, Jan 18 (MENA)—Yemen will not be part of the war which broke out in the Gulf but will continue its peace efforts, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iriani said today. He added, in an interview with the "26 SEPTEMBER" weekly magazine that the political, military and security cards would be reshuffled if Israel interfered in the Gulf war.

'Act of Hostility' Reported at Airline Office

EA1801101291 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The office of the Yemeni Airlines in Paris was subjected this morning, 17 January, to an act of hostility. Brother Muhammad Ahmad al-Haimy, head of Yemeni Airlines, told the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY that our country was awaiting the results of the investigation being undertaken by the French authorities.

Reported Protest at Egyptian Embassy Denied

EA1701091191 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible source has dismissed in a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', what was published by the Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYYAH in today's issue; namely, that the Yemeni Government had organized a demonstration against the Egyptian Embassy, that the demonstrators threw stones at it and shouted against Egypt, and that the demonstrators were armed.

Reportage on Aftermath, Reaction to Air Strikes

Spokesman Says 23 Killed

NC1801001391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2341 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The number of casualties among women, children, and elderly in all the towns and villages as a result of the enemy's brutal bombardment has reached 23 martyrs and 66 wounded, a military spokesman stated yesterday. The following is the text of the statement:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. And the nonbelievers plotted and planned, and God also planned, and the best planner is God. [Koranic verse] Verily, God Almighty has spoken the truth. The number of casualties among the women, children, and elderly in all the towns and villages as a result of the enemy's brutal bombardment of residential and civilian neighborhoods is as follows:

Two martyrs and 23 wounded in Baghdad. Nine martyrs and nine wounded in Wasit Governorate. One martyr and nine wounded in Salah al-Din Governorate. Four martyrs and two wounded in Nisan Governorate. Seven martyrs and 23 wounded in the Dhi Qar Governorate. Thus, the total number of casualties 23 martyrs and 66 wounded.

[Dated] 17 January 1991.

Casualties Said 'Mainly Civilians'

LD1701154791 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] [Announcer] The Iraqi ambassador in Spain, Arshad Tawfiq, recognizes there were casualties in his country, although he did not give figures, casualties which he said were mainly civilians because, according to the diplomat, the allied bombing was basically aimed at civilian targets. Tawfiq denies the attack destroyed his country's offensive capacity and called the bombing an act of terrorism.

[Begin Tawfiq recording] There is no patience, I repeat, although they have had patience for 23 years with Israel, 23 years. There are loads of resolutions from the same Security Council which have still not been complied with. Nobody loses patience. So, we think the conflict provoked is not justified and is against international law. In the name of international law, peace has to be made and not war. [end recording]

[Announcer] Tawfiq said Iraq had managed to bring down 14 allied planes and recommended the return of the Spanish fleet because it went on a peace mission and now we are war.

Jasim Reacts to Fitzwater Statement

NC1801122891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1142 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim made the following statement to INA in response to the statement made by American White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater:

First, Marlin Fitzwater, the official White House spokesman, cited American President Bush as telling the American Congress that no one should assume that the conflict will be short and easy. Fitzwater refused to predict the length of the battle.

The minister said that Fitzwater made this statement now that America has embarked its military aggression against Iraq, time is passing, and Iraq's will has become stronger with the growing belief of the Iraqis in their just position in order to deceive American public opinion and its constitutional institutions to support him in his aggression.

Bush said that he will try to see that not one drop of blood will be shed by any American in his lightning war. Today, after less than two days since the beginning of the fighting, Fitzwater is preparing public opinion for new facts when he says that the war will not be easy and that it might not be short. No one can predict the will of the Iraqis and how they and their leadership will act. It is as if Fitzwater has discovered this fact for the first time. In a few days the den of plotting, treason, and aggression in the White House will discover that the blood of the Americans will be shed against [as received] the gathering of infidelity and the hypocrites. The American congressmen should remember the statements made by the devil of the White House, Bush, before his mean aggressive operations—that is, a lightning war will take place in which the will of the faithful Iraqis will certainly succumb, as he said, and there will be little blood. Not a few drops of blood, but rivers of blood will be shed. And then Bush will have been deceiving America, American public opinion, the American people, and the American constitutional institutions.

Second, the Americans stated that Iraq has launched only one missile against Saudi Arabia and that the U.S. counter-missiles have destroyed it. We wish to confirm that this report is false, not to deny our intention to confront the dens of spies, aggression, and infidelity in certain sacred lands and sites, but to show how the U.S. quarters lie to the world and U.S. public opinion.

Third, the United States' agents, like the treacherous regime in Egypt, moved to support its lies, thinking that they can infiltrate the Iraqis' awareness and faith. Certain losing quarters in Egypt stated that 50 tanks have surrendered to Husni [Mubarak] in Saudi Arabia. This statement is a direct insult to the brotherly people of Egypt before being an insult to Iraq. This is because such cheap propaganda cannot imagine that the people can stand fast against the aggression of their U.S. masters.

Such an imagination about the inability of the peoples and the Arab armies to stand fast may, according to their failing imagination, lead them to humiliating defeat. The culture and information minister added: This is based on cowardice as well as treachery on the part of the officials who have afflicted the brotherly people of Egypt. They insulted their [the Egyptian people's] national honor after they insulted their pan-Arab affiliation.

Therefore, the report is not only groundless but does not in any way conform with the values and stands of the people of chivalry and good deeds—the valiant men of our Armed Forces. This can never happen in the army of al-Qadisiyah, the army of the mother of battles.

Saddam Chairs Meeting 17 Jan

NC1701223291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2216 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn chaired a joint meeting of the Revolution Command Council and the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party this evening.

During the meeting, the military situation in all sectors and fields was reviewed. The conferees praised the vigilance, precision, and efficiency shown by our valiant Armed Forces while resisting the heinous U.S.-Zionist aggression and inflicting heavy losses on the aggressors. These losses have toppled their illusory calculations, which are based on material considerations and bad advice by their losing supporters—primarily the traitor Fahd.

The meeting particularly commended the achievements of the men of the Air Force and air defenses.

The meeting issued a statement. Following is the text:

O great people, o men who are the stalwarts of faith and the banner of pride in the heroic Armed Forces. O Arabs, o faithful Muslims wherever you are, this is the day of the hostile sects [reference to forces hostile to Muslims in an early Islamic battle]. It is a day of Muhammadan jihad against the infidels, idolators, and hypocrites.

These are glorious days, full of the faith [words indistinct] of the days of the Prophet's companions in the first days of Islam. It is God's will to bestow great pride and a period of dignity on the Iraqi mujahidin [strugglers] after He decided to raise them to a greater degree of faith among the fortunate and pious ones and the faithful worshipers of God. As in the struggle against the hostile sects, victory will certainly fall to the faithful as it was certain to fall to the Prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him.

The valiant ones in the Armed Forces and the masses of the people, the glorious Iraqi women, mothers, wives, sisters, and daughters of the heroes are in the vanguard of those who want this fight that strengthens faith and the faithful. They are also a source of nobility for the faithful, God willing.

Bush's brute force and his followers in the army of infidelity and hypocrisy will neither frighten nor terrify the sweet children and the glorious women of Iraq.

It is natural for us to say that Bush's brute and infidel force, even if it is redoubled to several times what it is now, will not weaken the determination of the men of faith and jihad in great Iraq.

Victory, in which will is tested by weapons after reliance on God, will be the ally of the faithful and the harvest of their faith and their heroism. Aggression and its weapons will turn against the criminals who carried it out. God will make triumph those whom He wants to triumph, and he truly listens and responds. God is great and cursed be the lowly.

Communiques Claim Shootdowns, Outline Views

Communique No. 3

NC1701210091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—The number of enemy aircraft shot down by the Iraqi air defenses from early today until 1855 today has risen to 44 fighter planes. Furthermore, a large number of cruise missiles [al-sawarikh al-jawallah] were destroyed.

The following is the text of Communique No. 3 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

Communique No. 3 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O zealous sons of the Arab nation, you are God's beloved and are proceeding on the road to glory and loftiness which enhances the nation's status, upgrades its prestige, and consolidates its historical role; you are the heroes of the Armed Forces who with your chivalry and jihad are fighting the U.S. despot and apostate and the forces allied with it, the exploiters, corrupters, and corrupt. Your brave sons, the hawks of the Air Force and the heroes of the Air Defenses who protect your clear sky, have confronted the U.S., Atlantic, and Zionist forces of aggression and faced them with their known heroism. They have made their planes fall and have shattered their missiles. God has been their victor and has made you triumph on the road to virtue and to the enhancement of the nation's status by making your banner flutter high.

The hero hawks of the air have harvested the following from 0230 this morning until 1850 [as received] this evening: 44 enemy planes, 33 cruise missiles, in addition to several others which did not explode and which will be used.

Thus, those who wager on the surprise element now realize that the Iraqis are lying in wait for them inspired by their symbol Saddam Husayn and will proceed on the road to certain victory, God willing. God grants victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 January

Communique No. 4

NC1801094191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0822 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Communique No. 4, issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 January 1991]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. And He sent against them flights of birds. Striking them with stones of baked clay. Then did He make them like an empty field of stalks and straw, of which the corn has been eaten up. [Koranic verse]

O great Iraqi people, o sons of the glorious nation, o Muslim mujahidin wherever you may be; o benevolent people who reject aggression all over the world: You remember that the crisis fabricated by the devil of the American house, Bush, started in early 1990. You also remember that the United States barred bread from the Iraqis in March 1990 when the U.S. Congress, in coordination with, and instructed by the Bush government, decided to terminate the cereals contracts Iraq has signed with U.S. companies in accordance with the usual kinds of paid-for purchase in commercial markets. You also remember that the United States had earlier prevented Iraq from purchasing industrial materials, alleging that those materials would advance industrialization, something unacceptable and impermissible for a country like Iraq from the viewpoint of the U.S. policy and the devil of the White House.

The frenzied U.S. allegation resulted in a continued technological blockade. The blockade was not by the United States alone; it has also pressured Europe and Japan and tried to pressure the Soviet Union and China. Do you know why this has happened? All of this happened before 2 August. The U.S. Administration had also targeted the life of the leadership and its leader in Iraq [Saddam Husayn] even before August events, and we have documents with categorical evidence that prove this.

All of that happened because the advancement of Iraq is not acceptable to the United States' corrupt and spoiled child, which calls itself Israel and which is a Zionist entity usurping the dear land of Palestine and the Arabs' land. It also happened because the power of Iraq contradicts the U.S. Administration's ambition to impose hegemony and control of the region and its oil, of which we are a part—geographically, spiritually, and nationally—to tighten its control on the world and impose full custodianship and hegemony on it.

Therefore, Israel and the United States are not only one and the same—Israel, which has usurped the land of Palestine and the Golan and some of Lebanon's territory recently, but the United States has also placed itself in the service of this phony entity so that it can fulfill the task of aggression against the man the United States thinks an aggression has to be committed against, and the man who Israel believes requires an aggression as dictated by its expansionist plan at the expense of the Arabs to keep Palestine usurped.

Your remember, brothers, that on the tape—recorded in his own voice—before the events of 2 August 1990 and before the day of the call [2 August], Fahd was being aggressive and exposed his conspiracy. We have broadcast that tape to you. You also remember how outrageous he was against Iraq, its leadership, and policy because Iraq was calling for the liberation of Palestine and because the cliques of infidelity and hypocrisy are one and the same. The alliance between Fahd and the U.S. and Zionist administration was implicit and explicit even before it has become so flagrant, as now demonstrated in the military aggression.

The U.S. weapons with which the United States, Fahd, and their allies are hitting Baghdad are from Israel's arsenal, the den of aggression in the Middle East.

Brothers, you remember that before this current treacherous armed aggression against Iraq, we stated clearly that if the aggression began, it would be essentially at the instigation of Zionism, the Zionist entity, and the Zionist lobby in the United States. Hence, we would not spare bastard Israel.

After relying on the all-powerful and almighty God, our struggling missiles forces pounded political, economic, and scientific targets in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and elsewhere in Israel. Let the United States hear the wailing of its daughter implanted in the heart of the Arab Homeland. The United States wanted to spare Israel the burden of war and its losses, to compensate it for the aggression's losses from the blood of the U.S. people and other peoples, and to keep it as an onlooker enjoying the aggression of the aggressors.

We tell the Zionist entity: In the name of God and the nation, Israel must give in to justice and leave the land of Palestine and other Arab lands. Victory comes from God, who is the best supporter. Verily, God said the truth.

Thus, the arena of showdown is between Washington, Tel Aviv, and those renegades who support them on one hand and Iraq—the leader of the struggling believers—and those good people who believe in justice and who support or sympathize Iraq.

God will grant us victory very soon. God is great. God is great. God is great.

[Signed] The General Command of the Armed Forces

[Dated] 18 January 1991.

Communique No. 5

NC1801130091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Communique No. 5 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O God, we thank you for the great victory and immense support which you have given to your pious and faithful strugglers. O glorious Iraqis. O sons of our valiant Armed Forces. Victory is yours as you are waging the battle of dignity and honor, the mother of all glorious battles in which you are heroically defending your land and are removing the filth from your holy places, honor, and sovereignty and your right to build a life that ensures prosperity, prestige, and glory for you and your nation and a free and happy existence for future generations.

O hero Iraqis. Your Armed Forces in all their branches renew their pledge with acts and deeds that they will fight the enemies of justice and humanity with the spirit of our greatgrandfathers and with the determination of the present-day Iraqis. They stress that they will punish the group of infidels and renegades. They will prove to the whole world that this battle is the battle of faith against atheism. They will turn once and for all the pages of humiliation and defeat which the enemies want to impose on our glorious nation. These enemies are assisted and encouraged by their agents—the traitors of the nation, the desecrators of its holy places, and the enemies of its renaissance—who are serving the interests of their satanic masters.

In response to the aggressiveness of the gathering of infidelity and vice, our regional and field air defense and our ground troops continued to deal their strong blows to the aircraft and concentrations of aggression as follows:

First, in confirmation of the ability of the men of our regional air defense, they managed to down two enemy aircraft before 1125.

Second, our valiant ground troops in the operation sectors have retaliated against the enemy shelling by directing effective hits at the enemy concentrations, damaging them greatly and setting their targets on fire.

Third, the valiant men of our field air defense managed to down five enemy aircraft over the various operation sectors. Thus, from the beginning of aggression at 0230 on 17 January 1991 until 1445 today, 72 enemy aircraft have been downed.

Glory to great Iraq and its heroic leader and the builder of its new glory, Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. It is enough for you that you have the satisfaction of God, the leader, and the people, o valiant men of our Armed Forces. God is great, from Him we ask support.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 18 January 1991

Capture of U.S. Pilots Claimed

NC1801151991 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1505 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] We have just received the following from our editor's room:

Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has announced at a news conference he held with foreign journalists that Iraq has captured a number of U.S. pilots whose planes were downed over Iraqi territory. The U.S. prisoners will appear before reporters.

Reports Claim Bombing of Saudi Targets

Commander Cables Saddam

NC1801124591 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the staff brigadier general commander of the surface-to-surface missiles in which he assured his excellency that the valiant soldiers and men of the surface-to-surface missiles have begun bombarding the targets [basharu bi darb al-ahdaf] inside the criminal Zionist entity with long-range missiles, thus avenging the suffering of the Arab and Islamic people, as well as the Iraqis and Palestinians. Here is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate;

To the hero of national liberation, President leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect you and make you triumphant;

From the commander of the surface-to-surface missiles;

"Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands, cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of believers." [Koranic verse] Verily God said the truth;

Rising to the test for the resolve of the people who follow your orders to wage jihad, your soldiers, the valiant men of the surface-to-surface missile corps, have begun striking at targets inside the criminal Zionist entity with long-range missiles, thus avenging the suffering of the Arab and Muslim people and of the Iraqis and Palestinians.

Let the hypocrites and devil-worshippers learn that they should direct their arrows to the symbols of atheism, the Zionists, and the imperialists, who have occupied the Ka'bah, (?rather than) support the atheists in desecrating the two holy mosques and attacking the stronghold of Arab steadfastness.

May God, his prophets, and the pious worshippers bless you. May the soul of Saladin rest in peace, for his honorable descendants are still faithful to the pledge. Praise be to God, who brings victory to the pious and defeat and humiliation to the atheists. God is great.

[Signed] Your faithful brigadier general commander of the surface-to-surface missiles.

[Dated] Friday, 12 Rajab 1411, 18 January 1991.

Saudi Targets Said 'Destroyed'

LD1801082491 Tehran IRNA in English 0551 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Ankara, Jan. 18, IRNA—The Iraqi Embassy in Ankara said late Thursday that the Iraqi fighter-bombers have destroyed their targets inside Saudi Arabia.

A statement issued by the press attache of the Iraqi Embassy here denied the American claims that it has bombarded only military areas in Iraq and said that President Saddam Husayn Thursday visited areas which the U.S. had claimed to have been totally destroyed including the radio and TV building and the Air Force Command Headquarters. The president talked to people and found them enjoying high morale, said the statement.

It also described as inaccurate most of the news on the Persian Gulf war.

The statement has also urged the Turkish people to strive for establishment of peace and security in the region.

Al-Khafji Reportedly Shelled

LD1801071791 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0630 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] At 0930 this morning, Baghdad radio announced that Iraqi forces downed five more U.S. and allied planes. According to an IRNA report from Ahvaz, this radio added: By downing these planes, the total number of the Western planes downed since the start of the war reached 65.

A high-ranking Saudi official divulged today that the Iraqi forces fired around 40 artillery shells on the Saudi Arabian city of al-Khafji, near the Kuwaiti border. This Saudi official added that during this bombardment, several shells hit an oil storage tank and set it on fire.

' an Reportedly Rejects Request for Military Help

NC1801111291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Jan (MENA)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has asked Iran to intervene militarily to support the Iraqi Army against the attacks of the multinational force, Western political sources said. The sources added that Iran rejected the request out of hand.

According to the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD, Iran's ambassador in a European state told the Foreign Ministry of that state that Iraq sought Iranian military assistance against the allied forces in return for some privileges for Tehran, but the Iranian rejection was categorical.

Spokesman Alleges Israeli Planes in Saudi Arabia

NC1801121091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1147 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following: We have learned for sure that a number of Israeli aircraft have moved from the Zionist entity to the Saudi air bases to join the forces of aggression that set out from the sacred lands. This is as follows:

1. Four planes left the Zionist entity's airport for the sacred lands at 0430 today.

2. About 60 planes flew to the sacred lands at 1012. America and its hateful daughter Israel should know, and traitor Fahd should know, that the excessive number of planes of aggression and atheism will only heighten the determination of the struggling men of the Armed Forces and Iraq's mujahid people to continue the path of jihad until God almighty grants His clear victory over the infidels, hypocrites, and traitors, and until their gathering is beaten off and fully destroyed, God willing. God is great, God is great.

Planes Said Disguised

LD1801135791 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The office of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY [INA] in Algiers has received reports from reliable sources in the Jordanian capital to the effect that the Zionist entity has painted several of its bombers in the colors of Iraqi aircraft bearing the Iraqi flag with the intent of striking a number of vital targets in Turkey, Syria, and Egypt in an attempt to draw these states into becoming involved effectively and directly in fighting alongside the forces of the U.S. aggression.

Israeli Reportedly Launching Raid

LD1801122191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The latest news comes to us from the Gulf, and Iraq more precisely. The latest reports say—and they remain unconfirmed—that according to an official source or rather a journalistic source—and it is the APS correspondent in Lebanon who has just reported—that the group of Israeli aircraft, seen earlier today crossing Lebanese and Syrian airspace heading for Iraq, today raided several positions in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

Beirut Sources Say Raid 'Confirmed'

LD1801123591 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] According to information gathered in Beirut, Baghdad has confirmed the Israeli raid on Iraq and it seems that the raid was carried out by two formations of Israeli war planes consisting of the eight fighters that were seen crossing the air space of southern Lebanon heading toward the east. Their objectives were obviously in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

Saddam Meets With Baghdad Mayor, Industry Officials

NC1801083091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has met with Baghdad Mayor Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid and the under secretaries of the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization.

Saddam's Son Sends Letter, Leaves for Front

NC1701205791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has prayed to God Almighty to safeguard our brave soldiers. God Almighty is near and responds to the prayers of the believers. This was the leader president's comment on the letter of greeting addressed to his excellency by 'Uday Saddam Husayn before leaving for the front of justice against falsehood to join the brave Iraqi men in confronting the tyrants. Following is the text of leader President Saddam Husayn's comment on the letter of 'Uday Saddam Husayn [sentence as heard; the following is 'Uday Saddam Husayn's letter]

Greetings to you, source of bravery, heroism, and love. Greetings to you, symbol of Iraq and its loyal leader. Beloved son [as heard]: I am writing to you as I leave for southern Iraq, where the lions and brave men of Iraq are stationed to counter the tyrants. I would have liked to see or meet you before I leave. However, I hope that I will return and see you in perfect health. Since my childhood, I have seen you as the lofty mountain and the ever-glittering banner. I will be there, where I will endeavor to obtain God's blessing, repay the homeland's debt, and will seek competition and cooperation among brave men.

Like father, like son. This is a family that does not hesitate to make any sacrifices for the land, even their children and souls.

My sincerest regards to you, my father. I pray that God will preserve you for us as a family and for our people in general. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Therefore, when ye meet the unbelievers in fight, smite at their necks; at length, when ye have thoroughly subdued them, bind a bond firmly on them: thereafter is the time either for generosity or ransom: until the war lays down its burdens. Thus are ye commanded: but if it has been God's will, He could certainly have exacted retribution from them Himself; but He lets you fight in order to test you, some with others. But those who are slain in the way of God, He will never let their deeds be lost. [Koranic verses]

[Signed] Your son, 'Uday Saddam Husayn, 15 January 1991.

Official Says Weapons Distributed in Baghdad

NC1801101991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih, member of the Regional Command and official in charge of Baghdad's Organization Bureau of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has affirmed that hundreds of thousands of various weapons have been distributed to Baghdad residents so that they can participate in the confrontation process undertaken by our people and armed forces against the reactionary Zionist-imperialist aggression.

In an interview published in AL-JUMHURIYAH today, he said that Baghdad, the city of victory and peace, has turned into a jungle of fighters and packed trenches covered by the muzzles of rifles, guns, and various other weapons, which contributed to filling the sky over Baghdad with a mass of fire. This, he added, made the aircraft of the American enemy and his ally Fahd, the betrayer of the two holy shrines, climb to higher altitudes to elude the intense fire.

He pointed out that the Iraqi heroes will not be frightened by Bush's aircraft, nor by the raids of his frenzied dogs such as [King] Fahd and Husni [Mubarak]. The Iraqis, he said, will turn the American aggression into a catastrophe that will bluster against the American imperialism's sites, interests, and allies in the region.

He emphasized that the American administration miscalculated when it committed its heinous act of a blatant military aggression against proud Iraq.

Comrade Sa'di Mahdi Salih concluded his interview by saying: The saga of the mother of battles will continue and escalate until the will of our people has been imposed, our pan-Arab rights are retrieved, and final victory is achieved with God's help.

Information Minister Greets Jordanian, Other Media

NC1801170291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has greeted those working in Amman radio and television for their honorable stand, thus substantiating their words with deeds toward their brothers in victorious Iraq.

In a statement to INA the minister said that history will record and good men will remember this courageous stand and the other courageous stands in the same way that history recorded for us the courage, chivalry, and devotion of our great forefathers.

The culture and information minister also greeted the Arab radios and the other media organs which have adopted the same stand toward their brothers in Iraq in these historic circumstances.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim affirmed that victory is certain and imminent, God willing, and that their brothers in Iraq will not disappoint them in terms of courage, capability, heroism, and confidence in victory under the banner of triumphant leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

Envoy in France: Iraq 'Ready to Negotiate'

LD1801025791 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, Iraqi ambassador to France, announced yesterday that Iraq is ready to negotiate for finding a peaceful solution for the Kuwait crisis but without prior conditions.

TAP reported that the Iraqi ambassador told a U.S. Television network that the U.S. air raids on Iraq led to a number of civilian victims. He added that the civilians were the ones who paid the price and not the military targets.

Further Comments by Iraqi Envoy in Spain

LD1801050991 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Early this afternoon Tawfiq Ismail, the Iraqi ambassador in Madrid, made statements in which he asked the Spanish Government to withdraw Spanish ships from the Gulf, although he also explained that these ships are not targets for Iraq.

[Begin Ismail recording] We cannot say that the first targets are Spanish ships because for us the first targets are the United States and Britain, which are participating in the war. If someone is not participating in the war, it seems to me that there's no sense in him being a target. [end recording]

On the general situation in his country following the attack which started the war in the Gulf, he said that there were more civilian than military casualties. He accused the United States of having gone to war with the entire Islamic world, and concluded that the solution to the conflict required negotiations between Arab countries. According to Ismail, Iraq's military response has still not begun and, according to him, too, the war could be very long.

[Begin Ismail recording] We still have not begun anything. For us, war has not yet broken out. We are very calm. We were capable of containing that air attack, as we have done. We have military experience and a military [word indistinct] I cannot speak about this, but each country has its strategies, its way of containing an attack, of prolonging a war.

Baghdad Commentary Praises Army Fearlessness

LD1801082991 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] In a commentary broadcast a few moments ago, Radio Baghdad referred to certain Arab leaders, headed by King Fahd, as traitors and continued to attack them in a strongly-worded manner.

According to the Central News Unit from Ilam, Radio Baghdad once again called the current war the mother of all wars and reminded its listeners that Iraqi power resembles a sharp sword that shall cut the hands of traitors and invaders of the Arab people.

In this commentary, Radio Baghdad referred to the will of the people as the decisive factor and announced that the Iraqi Army is not afraid of any power. It thinks of victory through reliance on its faith.

Paper Emphasizes Resolve To 'Liberate Palestine'

NC1601173791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH asserts that the sons of Iraq are confident and certain that they are capable of slaughtering the invaders and chopping them up like helpless animals once the great duel, the mother of battles, starts.

In its editorial today entitled "God is great," the paper says that six months into the showdown after the Iraqis regained their right to dear Kuwait—a part that the colonialist quarters had taken by force from Iraq—we find ourselves before clear-cut and genuine objectives that we have chosen with deep faith and principled confidence. We see these objectives clearly in front of us, after we made up our minds and relied on God Almighty to fight for their sake, determined that no brute force on earth would thwart our resolve to attain them.

The paper adds that we in faithful Iraq, which is in the forefront in the trench of the faithful gathering, believe today more than at any time before that this generation of the sons of Iraq, the Arab nation, and the Muslims has been honored by heaven and is on earth to assume the duty of attaining historic goals, including those that the preceding generation could not attain.

The paper points out that many thought that this generation would not be able to achieve these goals and imagined that it would not be able to liberate Palestine and regain holy Jerusalem, among the other objectives it is seeking to attain. But we say it loud and clear that this generation will liberate Palestine and will set Jerusalem free from Zionist captivity, the same as it liberated dear Kuwait, and that it will free Arab wealth from the hands of its robbers. It will not leave the job of freeing the sacred places to the next generation, because it is determined to liberate them under the banner of God is great, a call that will be chanted by all people. [passage omitted]

Paper Emphasizes Willingness To Fight 'Invaders'

NC1801113791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH emphasizes that Iraq will fight and fight until it achieves

victory under the banner of God is great. Iraq will not submit to all the might of the treacherous American force, nor will it be shaken by the unsuccessful air raids or by the so-called technological superiority. Iraq's decision is final and decisive. This decision is confrontation and a long-term war that will bleed the Americans and their allies and spill their blood drop by drop until they raise the banner of capitulation and will leave—cursed—the land of our sanctities.

In an editorial today, the paper, which is the organ of the Iraqi Armed Forces, says: The war began with an American-Western aggression, but when will it end? This will be decided only by the heroic Iraqi army. Under no circumstances will the end come before the bodies of the invaders, whatever their nationalities, are scattered over the sands of the Arabian desert or before the Iraqi borders and the province of Kuwait become the symbol of the showdown and the arena of honor for the Arabs and Muslims.

AL-QADISIYAH goes on to say: Yes, the war has started and this is God's will so that the faithful under Iraq's leadership will clash with the atheists under the leadership of America in the showdown of right against falsehood. This showdown will be decided by the valiant men in our heroic Armed Forces and by a heroic struggle that begins today and that will end only when victory is achieved. It will not be concluded by the air forces or a blitzkrieg as Bush wishes and imagines—Bush who has put himself in a difficult situation and also put himself and the world on a destructive path from which this ally of the devil and his invading forces will emerge only defeated after having subjected the world to a tragedy whose chapters he will witness one after another.

The paper adds that the war has begun and the wicked will not escape from its destruction, and the tyrant and corrupt Arabs will not succeed in their ugly deed against Iraq, the Arab nation, and humanity. The heroic Iraqi Army, with the resolution of the victorious leader Saddam Husayn and with Arab support, will put things in their proper and legitimate perspective.

The paper indicates that Najd and Hejaz will be liberated, the invaders will be defeated; usurped Palestine will be liberated from the filth of the Zionists; the midget entity—Israel, the protege of U.S. imperialism—will disappear forever; and the Arab wealth will be saved from foreign looting and the domination of the corrupt oil amirs, such as traitor Fahd and the backward shaykhs who are the cause of the nation's misfortune and affliction. The cowardly agent rulers, who have remained silent as mute satans about the American aggression will also fall with them.

AL-QADISIYAH says: It is a long and comprehensive showdown which is still in its early days. The Iraqi deterrent force will strike them where it hurts for they are closer than the jugular vein. The battlefield and the entire area will be shaken and fires will break out in every corner in which a sinful American and foreign invader is crouching, as well as in every cell in which the slaves of the Americans are nesting. They will be humiliated because Iraq's just force, like the edge of the sword, will cut up all those who dared to commit agression against Iraq or paved the way for it by disgraceful and treacherous means.

The paper concludes its article by emphasizing that the resolve and determination of the heroic Iraqi Army, the army of Arabism and Islam and the crown of the struggling Iraqi people, will not be affected or weakened by the so-called technology. War can only be decided by the men in the battlefield, face to face, and on the ground. It is only then that the American invaders will know the sacrifice, valiance, heroism, and steadfastness of the Iraqi fighter who is armed with faith and power and who does not accept anything short of victory in any honest fight they wage however strong the treacherous enemies may be.

Paper Says 'Iraqis Alone' Will Determine Battle

NC1801125591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0912 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the Iraqis alone will define the course of the next stages of this duel following the unique example they set yesterday by dealing with the ugly and bestial aggression with firmness, calm, and ability. In its editorial today, the paper says that the next days will show clearly that although Bush began the war, he cannot end it because ending this duel and determining its repercussions are the tasks of the patient believers who are being subjected to injustice and aggression.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds that millions are eager for the next stages of the long-awaited battle. They will make the desert of the Arabs give proof of a high standard of performance, thanks to the courage of the men and their belief and to the weapons they have prepared. They alone will define the weapons they will choose to use in every stage in accordance with what best suits them.

The Iraqi paper notes that Bush, the most evil one, will discover that he has pushed his Air Force and that of his allies to a destructive end that will result in making him lose everything he dreamed about and coveted when the aggressive air force emerges humiliated and defeated. The paper adds that our great people yesterday showed splendid bravery and steadfastness in confronting the treasonous bestial attack that began under the cover of night. The Iraqi pilots and the men of the Air Defense Forces showed courage and vigor in dealing with the crows of evil while the leader was with his people and soldiers instilling them with determination and seeing in their eyes the reassurance of victory.

The paper adds that the first day of the Zionist American aggression has passed, opening the door to other days in which those who committed this agression and colluded with it will be dealt with without mercy.

Concluding, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: We will see tomorrow who will emerge from the battle of the skies after the lions of the lightning have paved the road with the bodies of the invaders. God is great.

VOM Said Using Emergency Transmitter

LD1801124791 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Radio Sawt al-Jamahir [Voice of the Masses—VOM] of Iraq, monitored here Friday morning, continued broadcasting national anthem and epic poetry.

The radio has so far been using a single frequency for transmitting its programs, where as in the past in cases of emergency it used several frequences to air special messages.

The frequency, used for the first time, cannot be received on ordinary radios, meaning that Iraq is using an emergency radio transmitter.

The new frequency is frequently disrupted by conversations on the wireless.

Meanwhile, Iraqi national news agency (INA) resumed operation Friday.

Communist Party Urges Overthrow of Saddam Regime

NC1701194291 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus—The Iraqi Communist Party has called for action to end the crimes of the dictatorial Iraqi regime and the woes it has brought on the Iraqi people.

The Iraqi Communist Party condemned the Iraqi president's adventures and his occupation of brotherly Kuwait. It stated that the helpless Iraqi people have nothing to do with the adventurist occupation of Kuwait. The Iraqi Communist Party demanded that Iraq disgorge Kuwait and that all forces join hands to topple the dictatorship.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Communist Party sent letters to the Arab League secretary general and the UN chief appealing for support and solidarity with the Iraqi people to overthrow dictatorship and institute democracy in the country.

Opposition Announces Plans To Form Government

NC1801053991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The Iraqi opposition yesterday announced that urgent contacts are being held among principal parties in the opposition and some Iraqi Army commanders to form a national salvation government in Iraq. The report was carried by QATAR NEWS AGENCY citing Voice of Free Iraq.

The Iraqi opposition forces yesterday issued a statement in Beirut denouncing the Iraqi regime's adventure and calling for the Iraqi troops' withdrawal from Kuwait. The Iraqi opposition forces urged the international community to differentiate between the Iraqi people and the dictatorship clique responsible for the adventure, the aggression, and the violation of international legitimacy. The statement stressed that on this premise, the Iraqi opposition forces have called for adopting the peace option as the only path to resolve the crisis and force the tyrant [Saddam Husayn] to retreat.

The statement further called on the honorable people whom the tyrant has involved in his unjust war against the Iraqi people and in two devastating disasters to take the initiative and end the devastating war by declaring withdrawal from Kuwait and joining the Iraqi people's forces, which are struggling to topple the dictator who is responsible for all the disasters and calamities that were inflicted on Iraq; to preserve Iraq's unity, territory, people, and entity; and to confront the desires [as heard] that infringe on its independence and national sovereignty.

VOFI Claims Opposition Forces Contacting Army

LD1701193191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 17 Jan (SPA)—The Voice of Free Iraq [VOFI] radio has said that leading figures in the Iraqi opposition are holding urgent contacts with Iraqi Army commanders and with some Arab Islamic and Western powers, along with some Iraqi ambassadors in some states, to urgently collect and form a national salvation government or a national salvation committee, which might quickly salvage what can be salvaged.

The radio quoted sources, which it described as well-informed, saying that the measures will be:

—to relieve Saddam Husayn, his government, and members of his leadership of their government and party posts;

—to bring Saddam Husayn to justice and try him for what he has committed against the Iraqis and Kuwaitis;

—to make an urgent declaration of immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and to refer the disputes between the two fraternal countries to special arbitration committees in accordance with fraternal Arab and Islamic principles;

—to announce the release of all political prisoners in Iraq and Kuwait;

—to fix a specific transition period during which preparations will take place for holding free and direct elections where the Iraqi people can decide the form and nature of their government.

The sources expect this formula to be announced in the next few days.

VOFI Broadcasts Allied Appeal to Army

LD1801040591 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 0308 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The joint forces stationed on the Saudi borders issued an appeal to the officers and privates of our brave Iraqi Army in Kuwait. Because of the importance of this appeal and the noble spirit which instigated it, and because of the commitment of the Voice of Free Iraq Radio to the protection of the lives of our brothers and sons, the officers and privates, whom the tyrant has pushed forward to defend his foolish adventure, we will give you the text of the appeal hoping that it will reach every officer and private in Kuwait.

Appeal to the commanders, officers, and privates of the Iraqi army on the confrontation lines in the State of Kuwait.

God has said: To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight because they are wronged; and verily, God is most powerful for their aid. God has spoken the truth.

We know that you came to Kuwait without conviction or being consulted. We know that many of you did not fight your Kuwaiti brothers in God, blood, and language, because they understood that if a Muslim commits an aggression against his Muslim brother then this would be a treachery and injustice, and it would be against the saying of the honored Prophet—God's prayers and peace be on him—a Muslim is forbidden from violating the blood, money, or honor of another Muslim.

Therefore: Brothers, in the name of Islam, which gathers us along the right path; in the name of the proud Arab blood, which runs pure in the veins of us all; and in the name of the aims of our nation, on which we agree and for which we all work hard, we appeal to you to adopt the course, which God Almighty has shown us in His book and through his honored messenger, God's prayers and peace be on him, to join your brothers who fight for justice and for the removal of injustice.

Here we are your brothers. We welcome you on the land of Saudi Arabia. You will find among us all kinds of care, attention and honor.

Honored colleagues, it is an honor for man to fight for something that satisfies God and His messenger. What a humiliation it is to fight for the sake of whims and Satan's wishes.

May God throw light in your way and guide you to the right path. Do not throw yourselves into death.

(Signed) The joint Arab and Islamic forces, Saudi Arabia.

'Voice of Free Iraq' Calls for Saddam's Ouster

OW1801131391 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1130 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] While attacks on Iraq by multinational forces are still under way, an underground radio, which identifies itself as the Voice of Free Iraq [Jiyu Iraku no Koe Hoso], has called on the Iraqi people to overthrow Saddam Husayn. This radio was monitored in Tokyo today, 18 January, at a little past 1600 Japan time [0700 GMT].

[Begin recording of radio broadcast in Arabic with simultaneous Japanese translation in voiceover by an NHK staffer; the following is from the Japanese voiceover]

Iraqi people, this is the Voice of Free Iraq. We will broadcast an appeal from the New National Party [Shin Kokumin To].

Iraqi people, military commanders and soldiers. We wonder what you think of the situation which has been reached today. It has become clear now that the Iraqi leadership is fragile. What will happen next has become clear beyond doubt. Due to Saddam Husayn's misrule, dictatorship, and fascism against you, Iraq is on the verge of destruction. Our Iraq is now about to become the target of the world's threats. The day has come for stern judgment. Undoubtedly, Iraq is facing a calamity.

The powerful shield safeguarding Iraq will be destroyed. Rise up against the tyrant and his ilk. Now is the time for you to shout fair words at the man who has led our Iraq to the brink of ruin. Please rise up against the man who lacks policies and who only carries out childish policies. Iraqi people, Saddam Husayn and his group are hiding in underground shelters. You are about to fight with soldiers from 30 countries. They are armed with ultramodern weapons. They have come to crush the leader who has lost his senses. This ruler has spread vice to other parts of the world. They have come with their sight set on Saddam Husayn and his henchmen, but you will also be subject to that damage. Please rise up, hand in hand, to restore dignity to Iraq. Kill your real enemy. It is Saddam Husayn. If you carry this into practice, you will draw the admirations from people all over the world that the Iraqi people are wonderful. Even if time may go by, you will never return to darkness.

I repeat it once again. Please shout aloud the following: A new Iraqi republic will never accept anything but democracy and will not return to dictatorship and despotism. May God bring success for freedom, democracy, and the inauguration of new Iraq.

This is a greeting from (Sahd Salem Jaddir Kardissar Apiya), representative of the New National Party of Iraq, which represents the new people.

This is the Voice of Free Iraq. [end recording]

This Voice of Free Iraq, monitored in Tokyo, is said to be broadcast through cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. The man who made the appeal is

said to be President Husayn's former bodyguard, who fled to Paris, France. It is not known from where this radio is transmitted, but it is believed to be using a transmitter with powerful output either in the United Arab Emirates or Saudi Arabia.

Usually, this radio is hardly audible due to the influence of powerful jamming from Iraq, but today it was audible because the jamming happened to be weak.

Conscripts Said Serving 'Against Their Will'

PM1801121191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Jan 91 p 6

[Interview with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan and the Iraqi Kurdish Front, by 'Abd-al-Qadir Mamduh in "one of the Kurdish fighters' centers in the Iranian-Iraqi-Turkish border triangle"; date not given: "Half Million Kurds Pushed To Front Line Against Their Will"]

[Excerpts] [Mamduh] Kuwait—that peaceful country—has turned into a nightmare under the tracks of Saddam Husayn's tanks. How does Mas'ud Barzani, who is a key Iraqi opposition leader, view that action?

[Barzani] It is nothing strange for the ruler who has assassinated and murdered the Iraqi people's sons and expelled all good people from Iraq to invade and assassinate with his tanks a peaceful and stable country.

The person who killed women, children, and old people in Kurdistan, crushed them with his tanks, and annihilated them with chemical weapons cannot bear to see a stable human situation or a peaceful, active, lively country. [passage omitted]

[Mamduh] It is said that Saddam Husayn has formed an army composed of Kurds.

[Barzani] It is the first time in Iraq's modern history that military service has been expanded to include those born between 1945 and 1972 as well as the 17-year-olds. The number of Kurdish conscripts exceeds 450,000. They have all been deployed on the front lines as infantry troops in Iraqi Army units. These Kurds were all taken against their will to perform military service.

[Mamduh] How many soldiers have deserted the Iraqi Army and fled to your areas?

[Barzani] A large number of Kurdish soldiers have joined Kurdish fighters' bases in the liberated territories. Because we lack resources we kept a few thousand and asked the others to go to Kurdish towns and fortified areas. Information available to us confirms that tens of thousands of army deserters from Iraqi military units in Kuwait and southern Iraq are hiding in Iraqi cities. [passage omitted]

[Mamduh] Is it possible to say whether Saddam Husayn has managed to use the uranium discovered in your region in a nuclear industry?

[Barzani] Kurdistan is rich in minerals, especially uranium, which has been discovered in large quantities in several areas, particularly in the Karah [as heard] mountain range, where a very huge project has been set up. It is shrouded in the utmost secrecy and guarded by special forces selected from the Revolutionary Guards. They prevent anyone from getting near the area.

But as to the extent to which Iraq has managed to extract the uranium and use it in manufacturing nuclear weapons, the information available to us and the secrecy surrounding the project deny us reliable data.

[Mamduh] So do you reject the existence of nuclear weapons in Iraq?

[Barzani] Not at all. I believe that Iraq has a substantial capability to produce nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

[Mamduh] What do you think is the best method of ruling Iraq after Saddam?

[Barzani] The best method of ruling Iraq is the election of a president of the Republic and members of parliament by the people through impartial elections. It should be the elected house of representatives that selects and appoints the prime minister and grants confidence to or withdraws it from ministers.

[Mamduh] Do you believe in freedoms in Iraq in the future?

[Barzani] We believe in all concepts of freedoms without any distortion or falsification. We believe in citizens' full freedom, in the freedom to form parties, in pluralism, as well as in freedom for trade union and professional organizations. [passage omitted]

Levi—Israeli Retains Right To Defend Citizens

TA1801180591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1447 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Israel retains the right to decide when and how to defend its citizens. Foreign Minister David Levi repeated this position several times, at a news conference he held this afternoon at the communications center in Jerusalem's Hilton Hotel. Here is an excerpt of the news conference.

[Begin recording] [Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Halperin] According to what the government knows at this moment, does the threat of a missile attack on Israel still persist?

[Levi] Nobody can give a responsible answer to that question. As long as Saddam Husayn has such weapons at his disposal the danger persists that he might use them against Israel time and again. Israel has the strength to show self-restraint whenever necessary, just as we restrained ourselves in the face of his threats and did not stage a preemptive strike. The same Israel that must and is entitled to do its duty when attacked will yet prove through its reaction, whenever it becomes necessary and whenever it so decides, that Israel is strong. The power of deterrence is with us. [end recording]

IDF Spokesman Reports on Iraqi Missile Attack

TA1801041691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 0355 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] A few minutes ago, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman released a brief statement summing up this night's events. This is the statement: The IDF spokesman announces that some time after 0200 tonight [0000 GMT], a number of surface-to-surface missiles fell inside Israeli territory. The missiles were launched from west Iraq and bore conventional explosive warheads; there were no chemical warheads.

In the attack, seven citizens were slightly injured and were taken to hospitals. In reply to a question, the spokesman said he would not specify the precise locations the missiles landed.

Another communique just received: The IDF spokesman announces that the public is now permitted to leave sealed rooms, although they are to remain inside their apartments. The public will thus remain at home and keep gas masks within reach.

Casualty Update; Orders to Public

TA1801090691

[Editorial report] Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew at 0800 GMT on 18 January 91 carries a newscast stating that "in Tel Aviv 12 people suffered slight to moderate wounds when missiles hit the city last night. They were injured by ricochets and the blast of the explosions." The report adds that many others came to hospitals for treatment following "shock, heart problems, and taking Atropine shots by mistake."

In Haifa "there were no casualties in the area hit by several missiles, but there was damage to buildings."

The report goes on to say that in the areas of "Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, the general curfew continues today as well," and that "so far there were no reports about incidents or irregular events."

Further on in the report it is noted that an "emergency decree" published yesterday states that "all the workers of essential work plants must show up for work today." This refers to services such as "hospitals, clinics, Israel Electricity Company, Bezeq [the national telephone company], the refineries, bakeries, food factories, gas stations, and defense industries."

At 0820 GMT the radio station carries the following "announcement by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman: In order to obtain essential supplies—if they are needed, and this is stressed, only if needed—for the Sabbath, the residents may leave their homes beginning 1030 [0830 GMT] this morning. The public is requested to carry gas masks at all times, and to stay outdoors for the shortest possible time."

Missiles Without Chemical Warheads

NC1801030491 Paris AFP in English 0255 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 18 (AFP)—The Iraqi missiles that landed Friday in Israel were not equipped with chemical warheads, the Israeli army spokesman announced.

Seven people were wounded when the missiles, fitted with conventional payloads, crashed into Israel, General Nahman Shai said.

Shamir on SCUD Attack

LD1801053291 Jerusalem International Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will this morning convene senior ministers and defense officials to discuss what course Israel should adopt in response to the Iraqi missile attack.

During the night Secretary of State James Baker phoned the prime minister, and Britain asked Israel to exercise restraint. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Katzenell] Prime Minister Shamir spent the night at his office in Jerusalem. In addition to his telephone conversation with Secretary Baker, he talked to several of his ministers, in particular Defense Minister Moshe Arens. He also spoke to the Chief of the General Staff, General Shomron, and received up-to-date briefings on the missile attack.

Officials in Jerusalem have again voiced satisfaction over the level of coordination with the United States.

Several conversations at various levels took place during the night with the U.S. Administration.

And with regard to the Israeli response to the missile attack, just a few days ago Israel told the U.S. undersecretary of state Lawrence Eagleburger, it retains the right to defend itself in response to an Iraqi attack. That is still the official line. Israeli leaders refuse to elaborate for the present.

The U.S. recognizes Israel's right to self defense and so does Egypt. Syria, on the other hand, could present a problem and Israel does not take lightly the threat Syria made to choose sides if Israel attacks Iraq in response to a missile attack.

Senior government circles are not surprised by last night's attack. As soon as it became clear yesterday that some of the missile launchers had not been destroyed in the Americans first strike, the attack was expected.

Of course, there was some relief when it emerged that the missiles were not armed with chemical warheads. This, and the fact that the casualties here in Israel were very light, may influence the government decision this morning.

It should be added that Britain has asked Israel to exercise restraint and it is no secret that this is also the wish of the United States.

Levi Comments on Attack

TA1801053691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Networks in Hebrew 0445 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Rafi Reshef and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Reshef] Good morning, Mr. Foreign Minister. What does Israel intend to do?

[Levi] Well, you do not expect a responsible statesman to tell you what he is about to do. A grave thing has happened, which in fact we have been expecting, because not all the launchers have been destroyed. We knew there were mobile launchers, too, and the instructions and guidance to the civilian population were issued in accordance with this knowledge. We were proven correct.

The grave thing that happened proved two things: 1. They still possess means. 2. I am very sorry, but it provided an answer to all the doubts about whether their missiles can reach us at all. We now have proof that this must be discussed and decisions made.

[Reshef] You mentioned discussion, Mr. Foreign Minister. Are we coordinating with the Americans?

[Levi] It is no secret that we are coordinating with the Americans, but until we were bombed, there was a question of whether we were in any real danger at all. There were consultations about potential developments.

[Reshef] I am referring to coordination with the Americans in the wake of the missiles tonight.

[Levi] We are having consultations. I cannot specify beyond that, but one thing is plain to all: It is Israel's right and duty to take steps for its defense. We spent this entire morning in consultations. Later this morning, we will examine the situation and decide on a path of action.

[Golan] Will you be able to consider settling for the promises received tonight from the United States, that the United States will react appropriately to the launching of missiles at Israel?

[Levi] Why start speculating now? What does it mean—will we be able? There is a team that is assisted by assessments of Army personnel. The political team bears responsbility for Israel's security, and the Army does its duty and anything it is tasked with. This development is grave, and it proves that Iraq still possesses means.

[Golan] There is a question regarding the means, Minister Levi. You have studied Saddam Husayn's personality quite thouroughly, and yet he has not resorted to the means with which he threatened Israel: He has not fired chemicals weapons at us, merely conventional. Although this was done with missiles, the ammunition was conventional. Why did he do it?

[Levi] I would like to refer to his announcements and threats in an appropriate way, just the way he makes them. The question of timing is something else, but he had said he would do something, and he did it. He said so about Kuwait and about other things. The question of whether he can carry them out is something else again, but there is no doubting his intentions. The man is capable of anything. A man who, without blinking, caused 1 million fatalities in the past decade, and later erased all the causes for war with Iran; a man who now says he is willing to sacrifice 2 million people—this is a man capable of anything. That is how we should think of him, and that is what should guide our actions and decisions.

[Reshef] Are you saying, Mr. Foreign Minister, that after tonight's missiles, any conclusion of the war that does not include the ousting of Saddam Husayn will not satisfy Israel?

[Levi] We are not presently setting goals, because we have not yet joined the war. We do not want this war, as we have announced. Now, we are being threatened, and there is no possibility for a country—all at one time—to be attacked, to be threatened, to remain aware of Saddam's large arsenal, and to say to itself: I will live with this threat. This may be appropriate for an entertainment show, but not for the survival of a nation. However, as for moves, the government—or its appointed committee—will make decisions. Nothing is automatic, but neither do we have an attitude such as exercising self-restraint and hoping for the best.

[Golan] Should we keep the gas masks at hand?

[Levi] Yes, keep them. First of all, I am proud of the conduct of the public which, despite the danger and the

missiles, was prepared and understanding, as if it had had similar experiences in the past. We are lucky. At the same time, we should remember that what happened tonight is perhaps a reminder, and if there was no chemical substance, it was not because he did not want it to be there. There are two possibilities: He either had difficulties in transporting the chemical substance, or it is a ploy according to which we start by getting missiles with minimal damage. We must not be taken in by this, because it is liable to be the most terrible trap. If his missiles could reach us, and we know he has that substance, he can do it again with terrible results. We will weigh our steps in accordance with that.

[Reshef] Are you saying that we do not discount the possibility that he has chemical potential, and he was simply trying to mislead us into complacence tonight?

[Levi] I am not speaking on his behalf. I am merely saying that with this man, we should take every possibility into account.

[Reshef] Thank you very much, Mr. Foreign Minister David Levi.

[Levi] All the best to you and the people of Israel.

Levi: Need for Caution

TA1801132591 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1230 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by military correspondent Natan Gutman; on 18 January in Jerusalem Hilton—recorded]

[Text] [Gutman] Foreign Minister David Levi, Israel was bombed yesterday by Iraqi missiles. Can we promise Israelis a quiet night tonight?

[Levi] The citizens of Israel must heed the instructions of those responsibile for security. A dictator like Saddam Husayn has shown that for him everything is possible if he can only do it. He threatened and yesterday implemented his evil scheme, a missile attack on Israel. We view that as a very grave act. As Israel told its friends and enemies, and the entire world, it reserves the right to decide in which way, when, and with which means to respond. Our security will not be a free for all.

I call on the citizens of Israel to understand the situation. Their behavior was an exemplary show of self confidence for a people who underwent what we did. We must obey instructions and not disregard them. We had feared last night's damage would come. We should not make a mistake and disregard orders, but keep up last night's behavior, because anything can happen. The tyrant can also find some way to implement what he threatened, that is to launch missiles with chemical warheads, with all the repercusions of such an attack. What happened last night will not necessarily happen again tomorrow, and perhaps, and that is our hope, nothing will happen. Israel will do what it must to make sure it does not happen. Our friends, the Americans, are doing a good and intensive job. Nevertheless, I repeat, do not disregard and do not wait for somebody to say that tyrant will not do it again. In order for him not to do it again, he will have to feel that he is incapable of that. But as long as he is in control of that weaponry, he is also capable of trying to attack us again.

Citizens, we must behave as we did yesterday.

[Gutman] Then, Israel will not respond affirmatively to an American request not to respond?

[Levi] Israel told its friends and enemies and the entire world: A low profile does not mean forsaking our security. We make our own decisions. The entire world was involved in a war over values and its economies which were endangered by Saddam Husayn, but we did not carry out a preemptive strike so that nobody could blame us for being responsible for a war that the world did not want. We are, however, repeating today what is obvious: It is the right of all countries to look after the security of their citizens and when attacked each country has the right to consider how to respond, when to respond, and to what extent.

Chief of Staff Demands Reaction

TA1801060591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, the chief of the General Staff, by Army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky and moderator Hayim Yavin in a Tel Aviv studio—live]

[Text] [Yavin] Good morning, Mr. Chief of Staff.

[Shomron] Good morning.

[Yavin] Can you give us a more accurate picture of the force of last night's attack?

[Shomron] First of all, I would like to state that the fact that missiles were fired at our civilian population is a very serious event, and, as all the Israeli leaders have repeatedly said in the past, such an event demands a reaction.

The second thing I would like to say is that this is the first time the civilian population has been subject to a missile attack. It will be remembered that the population had gradual preparation, which started several months ago and included mask distribution, room sealing, exercises, leave from work, and a waiting period at home. This process prepared the population for the event perfectly well, and I am glad that the damage was very slight. There are several very slightly wounded, and the damage is also relatively minor.

I would like to tell the population, however: You have the means and the ability to protect yourself against serious attack. All you have to do is listen to the instructions and heed them. This is what should be carefully adhered to and remembered, because as we are

talking, there is a very large American force attacking the very missiles and launchers that can strike at this area. The process of reducing and destroying that potential is continuing. At this stage, we must be ready to protect ourselves. I would like to express my full appreciation for the commendable and adult way the public has withstood this very unpleasant situation. It proves that even such a situation can be endured without much damage.

[Shlonsky] Chief of Staff Shomron, does the fact that Saddam Husayn has launched missiles with explosive, rather than chemical, warheads mean that he does not have chemical missiles? This would imply that perhaps the method of protecting the civilian population should be altered in a way that would send them to bomb shelters, rather than sealed rooms. People sitting there with gas masks on may find it very difficult if their apartment is hit by an explosive missile.

[Shomron] True, it would be difficult. I have said so in the past, and again last night: We do not think of the danger to the civilian population in terms of statistics, and even when there is but slight danger, we seek proper answers. As you know, Saddam can possibly have missiles with chemical warheads as well. We are not certain they are operational, but the working assumption is that such missiles exist and we, therefore, provide the best answers to the civilian population.

[Yavin] Gen. Shomron, you have said that a strike such as the one we absorbed last night requires a reaction—and I am quoting you. Is Israel able to react in the current situation of the coalition, in the crowded skies, when the Americans express their worry?

[Shomron] I wish to say that the great ability of the Americans does not replace the principle that defending the Israeli citizens is the responsibility of the State of Israel, and that is why we have the ability to respond. I said that such an incident cannot go unanswered.

[Shlonsky] Does that mean that Israel is responding or that it could respond, since you mentioned before that the Americans are reacting massively in the areas from where the missiles were launched at Israel?

[Shomron] I think it will be understood if I do not go into details.

[Yavin] You said that this is a first time that our civilian population has come under a missile attack. What is your impression of the behavior of the civilians?

[Shomron] I know the way they behave in my own home. The behavior is really mature. I believe that the period of preparations for such a possibility has yielded fruit, and the public is behaving well. I also want the people to know that they are defended, and until the potential of missiles is eliminated—and it will be eliminated—they are defended well. I hope that this period of tense waiting will be as brief as possible.

[Yavin] Could you give us some indication of its duration?

[Shomron] No, I do not intend to provide a calendar specifying the day when it all will be over. I hope it will be short. Let us remember that this is part of a war in the Gulf in which we have quite a few interests. Since, gentlemen of the press, I am in a hurry, I wish to repeat and state my appreciation for the population and the way it dealt with this very easy trial last night. I thank you.

Health Minister Discusses Attack

TA1801165591 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Studio interview with Health Minister Ehud Olmert by Dan Margalit and retired Air Force Commander Beni Peled—live]

[Excerpts] [Margalit] Health Minister Ehud Olmert is in our studio in Jerusalem. Good evening, Mr. Olmert.

[Olmert] Good evening.

[Margalit] Judging from the statements made by Foreign Minister David Levi and perhaps also from statements issued by the chief of staff, are we to understand that the government—and perhaps you personally—believe that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] should come out with a forceful response to last night's missile attack?

[Olmert] I do not necessarily come to that conclusion from the text of their remarks; however, it would not be illogical to reach it. The bottom line is that the U.S. position, which is also expressed in the media—and not just today but also during all the days before the war broke out—was based on the assumption that the U.S. action would succeed in effecting the greater part of the job as far as our angle was concerned.

[Margalit] An assumption which proved to be wrong....

[Olmert, interrupting] This was what ostensibly gave moral justification to the demand that we not add more wood to the fire and just let them do their job. It is clear that last night's incidents prove that, even though they carried out a tremendous effort that is worthy of all our appreciation and gratitude, there are still missile launchers out there, and missiles were sent which basically reached their targets. Something must be done about this. One thing is clear: We cannot and should not continue furnishing a target for Iraqi missiles.

[Peled] Ehud, I would like to ask: If and when we react, and I purposely stress if and when we react, because the matter is still probably subject to cold and careful considerations—what should be the target of our reaction in your estimation?

[Olmert] Look, in principle I do not know whether we will react or when. I do not know. However, I believe that the response should be focused on the threat, and the launching of missiles is the threat. [passage omitted]

Since the threat we are exposed to is missiles, Israel, at any rate should make sure that any reaction, however

important, severe, and comprehensive, should among things, put a stop to the launching of missiles directed against us. [passage omitted]

[Margalit] Let me ask you, Mr. Health Minister. Approximately 500 people from the areas in which missiles landed last night sought treatment today in hospitals. First of all, were these hospitals prepared and did they offer adequate treatment? Let me add a second question: Are you deployed to handle greater numbers?

[Olmert] First of all, one must realize that when talking about 500 people, several hundred people were evacuated today, the large majority of which had nothing to do with the landing of the missiles themselves. People got scared and mainly injected themselves with atropine and thus made themselves sick. This constituted most of the cases, and of course the treatment was speedy and efficient. I must commend the Magen David Adom [emergency first aid] personnel. They carried out an excellent job. I should mention that since the preparations were for a chemical attack, all the first aid personnel dealing with the evacuations had to put on special suits and gas masks and treat people in this fashion. This may have made things a bit cumbersome, but despite everything, they arrived very fast. The first Magen David Adom team was busy evacuating people on the spot at 0002 GMT. I must point out that the total number of direct casualties as a result of the missile attack—and I do not know what other numbers were published—but I was informed that 52 people out of all those evacuated were those that were directly affected. Whether by the missile or its fragments, or whether by the air blast or by glass shards, etc. Most of, in fact all the injuries are light, mainly cuts. There are no injuries of the kind described in the professional literature as moderate or serious. [passage omitted]

Sources Assess Iraqi Condition, Danger to Israel

TA1701225091 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 2200 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Our army affairs correspondent reports tonight that the assessment in Israel is that weeks will elapse before the Iraqi strategic infrastructure is destroyed, Saddam Husayn is ousted, and the Iraqi troops pull out of Kuwait.

As far as is known, the Iraqi Air Force has not been destroyed, and many planes have been moved to hangars and other hiding places.

Israeli sources judge that the possibility of Iraq launching one or two missiles at Israel should not be discounted. Therefore, the state of emergency remains in effect.

The Israeli Air Force is maintaining a very high alert, to be prepared for every development. The preparations for any kind of Iraqi attack have reached a culmination point. At present, the aerial front spearheads the military deployment and preparedness.

Correspondent Views Possibity of Chemical Attack

TA1801170791 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1545 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with political correspondent Arye Golan by studio moderator Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] On one hand, there is a CNN report that Israel has promised the United States not to attack Iraq if the latter abstains from launching a second missile strike on Israel, while on the other hand we have Foreign Minister David Levi's statement this afternoon that the missile attack is a very serious deed, that we will not let our security be trampled on, and that Israel retains the right to decide on the means, timing, and nature of its reaction. Where does the truth lie?

[Golan] The truth lies in the following formula, if I may try to second-guess the position of the decisionmakers in Jerusalem: Israel will definitely react. There is no doubt that Israel will react and it will do so with the utmost severity, there is no question about it. However, it will not play into Saddam Husayn's hands. It will not act out the scenario scripted by Baghdad to forcefully draw Israel into the war—by using missiles—thus shattering the coalition set up by the United States with the purpose of getting Saddam Husayn out of Kuwait. In other words, there will be a reaction whose timing, scope, and fierceness—as stated by Foreign Minister Levi—will be decided upon by Israel so as not to serve Saddam Husayn's designs.

This is the most accurate formula at the moment. Thirteen minutes before 1800 [1600 GMT], our friendly advice to all is to remain alert tonight as well, not to sleep too far away from the sealed-up room, remember where you left your gas masks, and keep them within reach.

Many cabinet ministers who received regular briefings during the day mention the possibility that Saddam Husayn may tonight fire chemical missiles in Israel's direction. We should be prepared for such an eventuality, just as we prepared for it last night.

[Friedman] Incidentally, is the opposition being updated at this time?

[Golan] To the best of my knowledge, the opposition is not being updated at this time. However, senior cabinet ministers have, all day long, been holding consultations in formal and informal forums. They have been hearing briefings about the situation and meeting with defense sources and senior Army officers. As far as I know, there have been no close contacts with the opposition.

Civil Defense Issues Instructions on Attack

LD1801011591 Jerusalem International Service in English 0100 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] This is Israel Radio, Kolyisrael, Jerusalem, (Ishael Dalj reporting.

Following a missile attack on Israel residents of Israel are instructed to follow civil defense procedure. They are to put on their gas masks. Residents of Israel should put on their gas masks.

They should go to the prepared closed room, close the room, seal the door, and put the wet cloth on the floor at the base of the door.

They should turn on their radios and listen for further civil defense instructions. They should not remove their gas masks. They should not leave the room until further instructions.

Residents of Israel should not, I repeat not, go to normal bomb shelters, but remain in the specially prepared sealed rooms.

I repeat: Israel is now experiencing an air raid alert following a missile attack.

Israeli residents are instructed to follow civil defense procedures. They are to don gas masks, go in to the prepared closed rooms, seal the door and listen to the radio for further instructions. Do not, I repeat do not go to the normal bomb shelters.

Israeli Aircraft Reportedly Raid Baghdad 18 Jan

NC1801114291 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1133 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The war in the Gulf took a more dangerous turn and a new dimension today as Western news media have reported that Israeli aircraft began raiding Baghdad this afternoon. These reports have not been confirmed by Israel or Iraq.

8 Planes Head for Iraq, Syria

NC1801112291 Paris AFP in English 1056 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Rashaya, Lebanon, Jan 18 (AFP)—Eight Israeli warplanes Friday flew over southern Lebanon and headed east towards Iraq and Syria, an AFP correspondent in the region said.

The planes, moving in two formations, entered Lebanese air space at 12:25 p.m. (1025 GMT) heading for the east, he said.

Israel has not ruled out a retaliatory strike against Iraq in response to an Iraqi missile attack overnight on Tel Aviv and Haifa.

Earlier this week, a senior Israeli military official said Israeli warplanes would use Syrian and Jordanian airspaces if necessary to retaliate against any Iraqi attack.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1115 GMT on 18 January reports: "AFP reported a short while ago that two squadrons of Israeli aircraft flew over Southern Lebanon and then headed eastward over Syrian-Iraqi air space. AFP added that each squadron consisted of four planes."

IRNA: Weather Causes Failure

LD1801152191 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Beirut, Jan. 18, IRNA—Israeli warplanes have failed in their mission to bomb Baghdad in retaliation for Iraqi missile attacks on Tel Aviv early in the day.

Zionist radio monitored by IRNA in Beirut blamed "unfavourable weather conditions and heavy clouds over the Iraqi capital" as the main reason for the failure of its bombing mission.

Phone Company Urges Restricted Calling

LD1801053691 Jerusalem International Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Now here is an announcement. The [word indistinct] phone corporation is asking the public to shorten phone conversations and let a hello and a brief update suffice. Heavy phone use at this hour is preventing others from getting phone lines.

Levi Denies Israeli Role in Military Action 17 Jan

TA1701172691 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1713 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Here is an announcement from the Foreign Ministry, and our political correspondent Arye Golan will update us on it:

Foreign Minister David Levi said this evening that no Israeli forces participated in the military action against Iraq. Minister Levi issued this announcement following an allegation carried by the Baghdad media today, according to which our Air Force planes supposedly participated in the first bombardment by the U.S. and other coalition members' aircraft on Baghdad. The above, said Foreign Minister Levi, is a mendacious Iraqi plot aimed at undermining the integrity of the coalition acting against Saddam Husayn's aggression. That tyrant is responsible for the death of 1 million Muslims throughout the expansionist wars he has forced upon the Gulf over the past decade. Even now he continues to announce his readiness to sacrifice 2 million Iraqis on the altar of his megalomania.

This communique was relayed this evening by Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosi 'Amihud.

Defense Spokesman Discusses Missile Threat 17 Jan

TA1701165391 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1515 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with Dani Nave, media adviser to Defense Minister Moshe Arens, by Razi Barqay and Mikha Friedman—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Barqay] According to what you have said, Dani Nave, the mobile Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles have not been taken out of commission. Can you give us any numbers?

[Nave] I cannot give you any numbers, and there is also no place right now for numbers and exact data. Nevertheless, in general one can say that the Iraqi surface-to-surface missile deployment has been hit, but the threat it poses has not been completely removed. Therefore, we must remain prepared and implement all precautionary measures in this regard.

[Friedman] Regarding these missiles, there is still something that bothers me. These mobile launchers that have, up until now, not been seen by the U.S. forces. Are they actually the next target to be located and later destroyed?

[Nave] I cannot confirm any Israeli knowledge that they indeed constitute a target. At this moment, I do not know if the Americans have indeed set themselves such a target. I would not be surprised if the U.S. forces, within the framework of their efforts to remove the threat of the Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles, are indeed carrying out and will continue to carry out efforts in this direction.

[Barqay] Dani Nave, with your permission and help I would like to go back to a possible timetable. We have said that our early warning—if we indeed discover that the Iraqis are arming their surface-to-surface missiles—is how long?

[Nave] I would not like to commit myself to a precise time right now. Of course, we are carrying out efforts on our part so that in the event of any real danger of this kind develops we will have as much early warning as possible. At the same time we had already prepared the public last night—after fighting broke out—to remain at home close by their protection kits, so that the time needed by each individual to protect himself would be as short as possible.

[Friedman] Yes, the only military measure we spoke of up until now were the surface-to-surface missiles. We know, however, that Iraq had, and maybe still has, planes. Are these reports that say the Iraqi Air Force's entire potential was wiped out in this U.S.-British-French attack accurate?

[Nave] I would not rush to embrace this conclusion. It indeed appears that the Iraqi Air Force's capacity to respond has indeed been affected. [passage indistinct]

However, we have a magnificent Air Force which is well prepared and which has maintained an extremely high level of alert for several days to confront any Iraqi attempt to attack us with planes.

[Friedman] The major headache for Iraq, since the beginning of the operation, has been the U.S., British, and other allied forces arrayed against them. Why should we assume that at a time of such extreme distress Iraq would turn part of its defensive and offensive potential against Israel, of all places?

[Nave] Because in the past, and until a very short while ago, the Iraqis issued threats against us almost daily. We should take their threats seriously, even though we have repeatedly declared that we are not involved in this conflict and would only respond if attacked. At the same time, we should assume that, if there is a threat, someone may try to carry it out. Therefore, for our part we should be ready and indeed are prepared for the possibility that someone may attempt something that would constitute a very grave mistake on top of his mistake by trying to implement this threat.

[Barqay] Thank you very much, Dani Nave, adviser to the defense minister.

Spokesman Warns of Missiles

TA1701151191 Jerusalem Voice of Israel and IDF Radio Network in Hebrew 1405 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Telephone interview with IDF spokesman Nahman Shai by moderators Mikha Friedman and Razi Barqay—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Good afternoon, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman Nahman Shai.

[Shai] Good afternoon.

[Barqay] Rivka Mikha'eli is with us in the studio. She has just returned from a short stroll outside.

[Shai] Rivka?

[Mikha'eli] Yes, how are you?

[Shai] What are you doing there, Rivka?

[Mikha'eli] I am here as a disk jockey; however, I have been permitted to ask you whether people should be warned once more against wandering in the streets? Should they not be told that it is unnecessary and way out of line?

[Shai] I would say that is correct. We have no reports that anything is about to land on our head at any minute; however, in general, we expected and still expect some Iraqi reaction.

[Friedman] What do they still have left, Nahman?

[Shai] They still have something, Mikha. They still have mobile surface-to-surface missiles that definitely constitute a threat. Since we have all been so careful up until now, starting with the distribution of the gas mask kits, and continuing with the opening of the boxes and the instruction of the populace in how to behave, I think that if something goes wrong at the last moment—and we will not be able to accept this limitation we have taken upon ourselves—this would be very painful and a shame.

[Mikha'eli] In other words, people should not act stupidly?

[Shai] No. What you said is exactly right. I believe that within 24 or 48 hours the picture will be clearer. We will know what they have left, and whether they can really launch anything. We are constantly analyzing their reaction from last night: Why did they react as they did? What have they done since then, and what are they still capable of?

[Friedman] And what conclusions have you reached after all this decoding?

[Shai] That there is something strange about the fact that despite their threats and despite their saber rattling over the past few months and days, their reaction was eventually a minimal one.

[Barqay] Nahman Shai, a few minutes ago you said—and I understand that this is an official IDF announcement—that there are still mobile missile batteries?

[Shai] Yes, we have definitely said that this threat to Israel has not been removed, and we have adopted this as a guideline for all of us, including in the field of every citizen's individual behavior. We do not want people to be frightened and anxious, and I believe that it has been made clear that there is great confidence in all the steps the IDF is taking. Nevertheless, we have not permitted people to leave their houses—something which is happening in some places—and start wandering the streets. If someone must go out, he can go out and come back. We asked people to keep their gas mask kits within arm's reach. At this time, we believe that this behavior should still continue. I can only promise that, if there is a change, we will not have any reason to maintain these rules for even one minute, and we will expeditiously inform the public.

[Friedman] Thank you, IDF spokesman Nahman Shay.

King Visits Prime Ministry; Comments on Gulf

NC1701155391 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Husayn, the supreme commander of the armed forces, visited the Prime Ministry this morning. He chaired a meeting including the members of the Council of Ministers and the emergency committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, his majesty reviewed general developments in the Arab homeland in the wake of the aggression against brother Iraq. He pointed out that the Gulf crisis could have been resolved politically in its early days. He said the crisis would not have been impossible to resolve if it had remained within the Arab household. However, he added, the internationalization of the crisis and the insistence on threats and the embargo made it impossible to pursue a peaceful course. He added that the door was left open for the massing of fleets and armies and for aggression against a brotherly Muslim people.

His majesty warned against the dangers involved in pursuing the policy of dividing the unified Arab nation. He called on all his brother citizens to shoulder their responsibility at this critical moment in the history of our people and nation, to close ranks, to work seriously to overcome all obstacles impeding the march of this nation, and to focus on production and be vigilant in order to protect our national accomplishments.

He prayed to the Almighty to save the nation from its current discord, restore its cohesion, rescue it from its ordeal, and protect Iraq and safeguard its brotherly people.

His majesty later listened to a presentation by Prime Minister Mudar Badran on preparations by various government offices all over the country to stand fast and emerge from the ordeal through which our Arab region is undergoing. The prime minister's presentation touched on precautionary measures adopted in cooperation with all brother citizens against any emergency. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Telephones Arab Leaders on Gulf

NC1701194491 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn made a number of telephone contacts today with a number of Arab leaders on the ongoing war in the Gulf. The leaders agreed to continue their consultations on the war.

His Majesty telephoned President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih of Yemen, King Hassan II of Morocco, President Chadli Bendjedid of Algeria, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia, President Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi of Libya, President 'Umar al-Bashir of Sudan, President Maaoiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya of Mauritania, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Agreement Reached Allowing Entry of Refugees

NC1801114591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] In assertion of Jordan's noble and genuine stands on humanitarian issues in all circumstances, it has been decided to allow the entry of refugees to Jordan via al-Ruwayshid border point, according to a program set for this purpose, because of the aggression the United States and its allies are launching against fraternal Iraq.

Interior Ministry Secretary General Salamah Hammad, who is chariman of the Higher Committee entrusted with the refugees' wellbeing, announced that agreement has been reached with the United Nations permanent representative in Amman, under which the United Nations will cover the expenses of the refugees' services and transportation to their countries. As for food, the World Food Program will provide it in cooperation with world and local committees and organizations operating in Jordan.

Editorial Hails Iraqi Bravery, Scorns U.S. Gains

NC1701153291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "It Is the Premeditated War"]

[Text] It is war. It was a premeditated decision from the very beginning. It was also the untamable desire that has been haunting George Bush and his team all the time. Here is the master of the White House igniting a conflagration by himself and pushing the region, and perhaps the whole world, toward the abyss of a terrible conflagration. It is the war, the Zionist dream, and the Zionist view of the fate of the region's peoples—destruction and a bloodbath in the Arab homeland.

They are the Crusaders who woke up from their long sleep in order to try once again to kill Islam, after some of us enabled and provided them with a base and a springboard, sometimes in the name of self-defense, and at other times in the name of Islam.

Thus, with the choice of progress on the war front or the peace front, the United States has opted for progress by killing, conflagration, and destruction, without caring about all the consequences of the war option in terms of pain, disaster, and losses, as long as all this saved America from clashing with Zionism, especially if the Bush administration had opted for peace.

Between retreating from and evading the confrontation on the one hand and steadfastness and adherence to pan-Arab honor on the other, Iraq has bravely and proudly chosen to continue its unique and proud position, without fearing sacrifices, as long as retreat before the concentrations of the new crusaders means a service to Israel and increases its arrogance and warring against the Arabs and the Palestinians.

Here is America today, announcing its untamable lust to see Arab blood, and deciding, in the darkness, to open the doors

of hell in the Gulf and the Middle East, not realizing that it will not be long before this superpower sees how small it is, how weak its technological performance in the battlefield is, and how wrong its calculations of this great nation's hidden capabilities are. This is because we know that computers cannot calculate the importance of the factor of place in any battle, or realize that land can fight valiantly back with its people. Moreover, the Americans will never be able to comprehend the significance of the believers' fighting under the slogan of "Allahu Akbar" [God is great], and the warriors' advance while shouting this eternal slogan, before whose thunder many kingdoms and emperors were defeated.

While resolutely replying to the aggression, Iraq today is calm, with a strong heart and faith. It realizes that there is a glorious history behind it fighting with it, a great nation standing on its side, a bright right supporting it, and an inexhaustible spring of men, who will advance every day to the battlefield which is as large as the entire world.

Because of all this, we are confident that victory will be the lot of this nation which has decided that it will not turn its back on the war, and that it will stand fast in the battle, rewrite its history with letters of fire and blood, and wrest its rights in full.

Military Denies Israeli Overflight of Lebanon

NC1801123491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] A military official in the Syrian Armed Forces operating in Lebanon has denied a report on Radio Monte Carlo which cited an AFP correspondent in Lebanon to the effect that two groups of Israeli warplanes flew over south Lebanon eastward on their way to Syria and Iraq at noon today. The source asserted that the report is completely groundless.

Source Opposes 'Carving' Up Iraqi Territory

NC1701153891 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible source has stated the following:

Syria expresses its utter surprise at reports published in the Turkish newspapers yesterday citing statements by the Turkish president and the Turkish prime minister in the Turkish parliament on external ambitions by some states aimed at carving out parts of Iraq during or after the war.

As is known to everyone, Syria regards the Iraqi people as a fraternal people. The territorial integrity of Iraq is a sacred issue for Syria, and Syria does not approve of this being violated by any side and under any circumstances.

Ambassador Denies Part in Baghdad Attack

LD1701105291 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—Syrian ambassador to Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan on Thursday denied his country's participation in today's air attacks on Baghdad by the U.S. and allied forces.

On Wednesday, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman announced that his country would not take part in a war against Iraq or Iraqi troops based in Kuwait.

The Cable News Network accounting for a large part of reports released under strict censorship since the start of U.S. military operations against Iraq early Thursday claimed that Syrian and Saudi Arabian troops also participated in the air raids.

Al-Asad Receives Call From Yemen's Salih on Gulf

NC1701192391 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 17 Jan (SANA)—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call this evening from the Yemeni President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

They talked about the situation in the Gulf.

Hospitals on Alert To Receive Gulf Casualties

NC1701194791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 17 Jan (SANA)—Syria's health facilities have been put on an alert footing to receive casualties, nationals of brotherly and friendly Arab and foreign countries, and evacuees from the Gulf war zone.

A Health Ministry official said in a press statement that throughout the country and for the duration of the Gulf war, the entire medical profession will be available around the clock.

All first aid and therapeutic requirements including medicines and equipment will be available in all hospitals and health centers in the country, the official said.

Commentary Decries 'Horror,' 'Destruction' in Iraq

NC1701150791 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1245 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The horror and destruction that Iraq is witnessing today was no surprise to anyone who has been following and monitoring developments in the Gulf crisis over the past five months and who is acquainted with the efforts made to steer Iraq and the region away from the precipice of war, make Iraq heed the voice of reason and conscience, bring the Iraqi rulers to their senses, and realize the international resolutions and the Arab nation's desire for justice and peace.

The current devastating war, to which Iraq is sending the best of its men, is an inevitable result of the reckless action undertaken by the Iraqi ruler whose occupation of Kuwait gave him an imagined step toward illusory and hollow personal glory at the expense of the pain and fate of the Kuwaiti people, at the expense of the Iraqi people and army, at the expense of the life and solidarity of the entire Arab nation, and at the expense of peace and security in the four corners of the globe.

We had realized from the very beginning that a mad action of this size would only bring the greatest losses to fraternal Iraq, placing it in a narrow tunnel from which it cannot emerge except with a reasonable approach that the Iraqi regime might adopt without miscalculations, prompted by Iraqi interests, the interest of the Arab nation, and the desire to preserve Iraq's strength and resources for the fateful battle with the historic enemy of the Arabs in occupied Palestine.

Based on this awareness, we spoke to the Iraqi regime using all kinds of language and methods, from the position of one who could not tolerate seeing his brother indulging in tyranny without giving him advice, and heading toward grave dangers without drawing his attention to what he wittingly or unwittingly ignored. Hence leader al-Asad's persevering efforts, which began from the first day of the invasion until his historic letter to the

Iraqi president with an open mind and an open heart, explaining to him the dangerous situation and the path toward whose end he was pushing Iraq, asking him to save Iraq and the Arab nation at the 11th hour from a dark fate by making a courageous decision to right his wrong and retreat from error, in order to spare precious Iraqi blood and preserve a future in which the nation can regroup and build its unity and solidarity on the basis of freedom and justice. However, this was proved wasted on a ruler who lost all opportunities and abandoned the principles of logic and discussion, rushing to the center of this hell with his ill-fated adventure.

Iraqi blood is precious to us. Iraqi achievements, which today are burning under destructive bombs, had been assets for us and for the Arabs. However, the Baghdad regime wasted them in its second vain war and has wrought ruin, destruction, and loss by its stubbornness, which made it lose its senses and all hope of saving Iraq from its great affliction.

May God help the Iraqi people in these dark hours and assist them in surviving this bloody massacre which their own rulers impose on them without compunction or logic.

Press Blames Saddam for 'Stupid Policy,' War

NC1801080191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Megalomania Leads Iraq to Catastrophe," AL-BA'TH says: Iraq's stupid policy has dragged the country and its people into the current situation. This policy has also dragged the Arab nation to new tragedies. The person [Saddam Husayn] who refused to respond to Arab and international calls is responsible. The people of Iraq are not the only victims; so are the national political, military, and economic balances.

AL-BA'TH adds: Through its leader al-Asad, Syria hoped that the Iraqi president would be realize the extent of the tragedy and the catastrophe to which he is leading Iraq. Syria pledged to be in the trench of confrontation, provided the Iraqi president neither pushed the Arab situation to the abyss nor risked the Iraqi Army again, as it is the army of the Arab nation. But, his selfishness prevailed without taking into consideration the feelings of the Arab people for even a moment.

AL-BA'TH says: We are really hurt because Iraq is part of the Arab fold. Has the Iraqi president felt anything as he gives new pain to the Iraqis and the Arabs—a new pain in the form of a terrible catastrophe?

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: We hope that Iraq will rid itself of the personalities that dragged it unwillingly to catastrophe so that it will embark on its sound march in the right national direction.

Commenting on the same topic, AL-THAWRAH says under the headline "Injustice and Darkness": Iraqi stubborness has caused this catastrophe. All reasonable calls did not succeed in preventing the Iraqi regime from waging the aimless war against Iran, and this was the same situation at the beginning of his invasion of Kuwait. Neither the Arabs, their will, their decision, nor their good offices succeeded in bringing the Iraqi regime to a reasonable path; world consensus and international will did not succeed either in convincing it to correct its mistake, avert the more critical movements, and return to the right path to avoid the moment of destructive explosion.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the crisis has entered into a path that begins with injustice and ends with darkness. It is the injustice of the tyrant, who is obsessed by madness. It is the darkness of killing and destruction to satisfy the whims of the tyrant and madman in Iraq.

Under the headline "The Legitimate Rights," TIHSRIN says: The Kuwaitis and their legitimate rights empower them to use whatever is necessary within the framework of Arab, Islamic, and international framework to liberate their land and to return to it. They also have the right to adhere to this national position, not to bargain over it, and to make the necessary efforts to achieve it in accordance with all laws. It is natural for Kuwait to defend itself, its sovereignty, and its fate and to benefit from Arab and international support to achieve its interest, end the occupation, and be restored to the Arab nation and the international community.

TISHRIN adds: In accordance with all laws, the Arab and international community should be concerned with the issue of liberating Kuwait. TISHRIN adds that the Iraqi president is responsible for the death and destruction in this war, because he insists on challenging the Islamic, Arab, and international will by holding on to Kuwait and playing with its destiny.

Paper Views Israeli 'Exploitation' of Gulf War

NC1801100491 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0827 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 18 Jan (SANA)—In today's editorial, AL- THAWRAH says that regardless of the course of war, the results of this war—in accordance with all criteria—will only be in the interest of Israel, its objectives, and policy that always aims at weakening the Arabs. The objective of the war and its military operations theatre are an evidence of this policy.

AL-THAWRAH adds that the objective of the war—which was caused by the invasion of Kuwait and the refusal to withdraw from it—has become clear now. Many parties

participating in the military operations have spelled out this objective; namely, to expel Iraq from Kuwait and to destroy the entire military force of Iraq.

The paper adds: What is more dangerous than the start of the war is Israel's exploitation of the circumstances produced by the war to attack Arab territory in order to achieve two of its most serious strategic objectives. These two objectives are represented by occupying more Arab lands to achieve the slogan of Greater Israel and to launch a war of terrorism and massive annihilation against the Palestinian people in their homeland in order to force them to leave for Jordan and to implement the claim by terrorist Shamir that Jordan is the state of Palestine.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The outbreak of the Gulf war and its difficult and serious impact on the people of Iraq and the Arab nation call on all Arabs to be more alert and cautious and to achieve a state of coherence and solidarity in order to face any attempt by the Zionist enemy to exploit the explosive situation in the Gulf and to respond with all strength to defend their existence and national security in the most serious stage in the contemporary Arab history.

Bangladesh

Commission Declares Ershad Nominations Valid

BK1801091291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The Bangladesh Election Commission has declared all the five nominations of the former president, General Ershad, as valid. Earlier, the returning officer of Rangpur District rejected the nomination papers on technical grounds. General Ershad filed nomination papers for five parliamentary seats in the district.

Ershad Interrogated Over Illegal Arms

BK1701142491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The Crime Investigation Department investigators have started interrogating Former President Ershad of Bangladesh in connection with an arms case. About 20 million taka and other valuables were found at the official residence of the former president inside Dhaka cantonment, besides 16 arms, eight of which were unauthorized, also found at his residence.

AFP Views Ershad Attempt To Gain Army Backing

BK1801021591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0143 GMT 18 Jan 91

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 18 (AFP)—Bangladesh's ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad planned to make the country's 100,000 strong army so unpopular they would have to support him enabling him to cling to power, military sources said.

"General Ershad shrewdly undertook a plan showing high spending for defence, specially for our luxury items, to ensure that the army was cornered and continued to support him despite public demands for his resignation," the sources said.

They said Mr. Ershad ordered brand-new imported cars for senior officers, put military officers in important government posts both at home and abroad and tried to portray the wrong image of the army and give a false impression of its political stance.

"We were forced to build a nearly 100 million taka ($2.8 million) club which is of use to the defence forces and at the same time reports of its construction was leaked to the public, creating sentiments against us," they said.

In the last days of Mr. Ershad's rule defence personnel could not move safely outside military barracks because of the plan, the sources added.

The major political and student groups had been demanding that defence expenditure be cut to increase spending in the education sector.

Of the $3.7 billion budget for fiscal 1990-91 adopted by Mr. Ershad's government, about 12 percent went to defence and less than 10 percent to education.

Mr. Ershad, 60, a former army general seized power in a 1982 bloodless military coup saying he had no political ambitions and would hold elections as soon as he could.

But he formed his own Jatiya Party and allegedly rigged both presidential and parliamentary polls to ensure victory for him and his party, and became the longest serving head of state of this politically volatile South Asian nation.

His luck ran out on December 6 when the army decided to support a pro-democracy campaign, eventually forcing him to step down in the face of massive public agitation against his regime.

The former leader is now under house arrest and has been charged with corruption, abuse of power and possession of illegal weapons.

One source said Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General M. Noor Uddin Khan had asked Mr. Ershad to step down in the national interest, but he had refused.

Gen. Khan had then called for a conference December 4 of top officials and asked them what they wanted to do in view of the fast worsening situation in the country, he said.

That started a motion to force Mr. Ershad out and within hours the president was told the defence forces were withdrawing there support and he had to resign.

The announcement of his resignation came the same day.

However, the army chief had earlier said he had not asked Mr. Ershad to step down.

Gen. Khan, a popular officer, had momentarily lost ground when several pro-Ershad officers wanted to revolt, sources said, adding that troops who felt Mr. Ershad was one of them were at first unsure which way to go.

"Things are totally under his (Gen. Khan) control now and the army is one," another source said, adding that local press reports giving graphic details of Mr. Ershad's many mistresses had destroyed the military's respect for a man who had once said the army would never betray him.

Asked how troops were reacting to the orders from Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed to maintain peace and discipline during the February 27 parliamentary polls, he said the army was always ready to work for the people, but had reservations on this issue.

The most important were that whoever lost the election could turn around and blame the army for helping the winner or alternatively, if polls were postponed in any constituency because of law and order problems there, some would blame the military for taking sides.

The sources said military officers have made it clear to Gen. Khan they did not want martial law under any circumstances.

"We told him that if it became necessary the army chief must not follow Mr. Ershad or slain President Ziaur Rahman, also an army general, in meddling with politics" they said.

Demonstrations Held Urging Halt to Gulf War

BK1701164291 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Demonstrations were held in several cities and towns of Bangladesh, including Dhaka, against the war in the Gulf. The demonstrators urged all concerned to stop the war immediately.

Bangladeshi Army Personnel Safe in Saudi Arabia

BK1701165791 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] All members of the Bangladesh Army contingent in Saudi Arabia are safe and well. According to the latest information, no incidents took place where the contingent is deployed. An ISPR [Interservice Public Relations] press release in Dhaka said the Bangladesh Army headquarters is in constant touch with the contingents in Saudi Arabia.

India

Tear Gas Used To Dispel Anti-War Protests

BK1801115491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1145 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 18 (AFP)—Police burst tear gas shells and beat back demonstrators here Friday as they tried to reach Western diplomatic missions and clashed elsewhere in the capital as anti-war protests broke out in India.

Witnesses said police burst 20 tear gas grenades when about a dozen women protestors fought their way through a barricade and reached the U.S. Embassy to protest the American-led attack on Iraq.

"Police beat back the women with lathis (batons) when they banged on the embassy gates and lay on the ground in front of the complex," said one witness, adding that the screaming girls were soon dragged away by the officers.

Hundreds of Moslem protestors clashed repeatedly with police near the capital's jama masjid (main mosque) when the officers prevented them from marching to the U.S. Embassy to present an anti-war memorandum after Friday prayers.

The protestors fought with paramilitary troopers and police after they poured out of the mosque into a road to find it blocked by armed officers determined to stop the planned protest march to the diplomatic area.

The protestors, numbering more than a 1,000, were beaten back with batons by police when they hurled rocks, neon light tubes, boards and bottles and ransacked a local cinema, a police post and a restaurant, the witnesses said.

The rioters also chased journalists, smashed the windshields of several private cars and buses and burned two effigies of U.S. President George Bush.

A second group of students were beaten back with batons when they broke through a police barricade and reached the British High Commission (embassy) gates, he said, adding that no one appeared to have been hurt in the scuffle.

Before the police action, some 400 Indian students and 50 Iraqi, Jordanian and Palestinian protestors had marched to New Delhi's high-security diplomatic enclave to call for an immediate end to the war in the Gulf.

Most of the protestors carried posters saying "no blood for oil" and "Bush, call off your dogs." None of the protestors from Middle Eastern countries were beaten by the police when the students' rally attacked the barricades, they said.

A third smaller group of some 150 Moslem students, several wearing black masks, filed towards an American centre screaming anti-Bush slogans.

"Down with Bush," they chanted as police closed in to prevent an attempt to break into the centre, which was closed Thursday to outsiders following a nationwide warning to U.S. facilities here against possible Iraqi attacks.

Cabinet Discusses Impact of Gulf War

BK1701152891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The Union Cabinet held an urgent meeting in New Delhi and reviewed the situation arising out of the Gulf war and its likely impact on India. Later, the prime minister met leaders of various political parties and apprised them of the latest situation in the Gulf.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar issued an appeal to President Saddam Husayn of Iraq to announce the commencement of immediate withdrawal from Kuwait in accordance with the Security Council resolution. This, he said, should be followed by a cessation of hostilities and resumption of efforts to find a peaceful solution of the conflict. The prime minister said that he has received a message from President Gorbachev about the Soviet initiative for peace in the Gulf and New Delhi will join such an endeavor.

Following their meeting with the prime minister, leaders of various political parties in a joint appeal called upon the people to unitedly face the grave challenge posed by the Gulf war. They also appealed to all world leaders to sit together to bring about immediate peace in the Gulf.

The prime minister is also meeting the state chief ministers this evening to consider the steps to be taken by the central and state governments to counter the likely impact of the war.

As already announced, the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has returned to the capital after cutting short his visit to West Bengal.

Meanwhile, the government has directed all Indian ships to immediately clear off the war zone, especially in the Gulf and the Red Sea region. A control room has been set up in the Shipping Corporation of India to monitor movement of Indian ships.

Fresh Efforts Made To Solve Gulf Crisis

BK1801045291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, has said India is making fresh efforts to defuse the situation in the Gulf. In an interview to the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent in New Delhi last evening, he said that the fresh initiative will be in the same line what India adopted at the UN Security Council. He said New Delhi is in touch with the member countries which have a similar approach but much depends on the response of the Iraqi leader Mr. Saddam Husayn.

Communications With Baghdad Restored

BK1801124491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Government has been able to restore communications links with Baghdad and has ascertained that Indians in Iraq have not been affected by the on-going war. Stating this in New Delhi today, the spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen that messages have also been received from Riyadh, Doha, and Dubayy. All messages indicate that Indians in the region are completely safe.

'Special Commentary' Discusses Gulf War

BK1801052291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0250 GMT 18 Jan 91

["Special Commentary on the Gulf War" by Raja Mohan of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses]

[Text] Iraq has kept its promise. The second day's hostilities started with dramatic missile attacks on Israel. Early reports indicate that the Israeli capital, Tel Aviv, has been hit and this has begun to erode the excessive self-satisfaction over the first day's results in the U.S.-led multinational coalition. This also shatters the image that the war would be short and one-sided.

Iraq had declared earlier its intention to draw Israel into the conflict once it is attacked. Today's developments would show if Israel sees the Iraqi missile attacks as sufficient provocation to join the war.

There have been few surprises in the first 24 hours of the Gulf war. As widely expected, the U.S.-led multinational force unleashed its awesome air power, repeatedly pounding Iraq and Kuwait. The aerial attacks concentrated on air defense installations, military bases, airfields, missile launching sites, chemical weapons sites, high value economic targets like oil refineries, and high visible potential targets like the Ministry of Defense and the presidential palace in Baghdad. The allied forces are taking total control over air in the Gulf war. This is not surprising given the massive American air superiority. Besides, the Iraqi Air Force has been the weak link in the imposing military force that has been put together by President Saddam Husayn over the last decade. So it was unlikely that Iraq would have even tried to seriously engage the American Air Force in the air. Contrary to the early reports from the West, the Iraqi air defense forces seem to have put up a stiff resistance to the U.S. air attacks. While the Iraqi claim to have shot down 60 allied aircraft is exaggerated, the fact that it has been able to bring down at least three allied aircraft and inflict damage to another four, according to the allied forces themselves, is impressive. The allied forces have claimed an 80 percent success rate from more than the 1,000 air sorties run over Iraq, but the early claims of the damage inflicted over Iraq have turned out to be too optimistic. In the fog of war, truth is normally a casualty and the claims and counterclaims must be taken with a pinch of salt.

The image that was sought to be propagated yesterday that the Iraqi armed forces are about to disintegrate and that the regime of Saddam Husayn is about to collapse appears to be psychological warfare at best and self-delusion at worst. Iraq is capable of taking heavy punishment and its doctrine calls for waiting and patience. Iraqi advantages in the current war are unlikely to show until the ground war begins. The allied forces are expected to continue the aerial attacks for a week or 10 days, but eventually they will have to come down to ground to physically evict Iraqis out of Kuwait. Until that begins, the war might appear one-sided.

At the political level the U.S. has got the expected support from the NATO countries and Japan, but the German chancellor has expressed his deep dismay at the beginning of the hostilities. President Gorbachev attempted an unsuccessful last-ditch bid to postpone the war between the U.S. and Iraq. In the U.S. itself there have been widespread protests against the war, but public opinion seems to have rallied around the flag. In the Arab world, demonstrations in support of Mr Saddam Husayn have been reported in a number of Arab cities.

The allied claims of success on the first day lifted the stock markets all over the world and sent the oil proces crashing down after an initial rise. This has been interpreted by some as showing the expectations for a short war, but it is more realistic to assume that the stock markets will keep reacting to news from the battlefield. The first day's reaction of the oil and stock markets to the war may not be the final one.

There have been appeals from many countries urging the end of hostilities at once and finding a political settlement. It is unlikely now that these calls will be heard either in Washington or Baghdad. The U.S. is demanding the surrender of Mr. Saddam Husayn, who has responded now by widening the conflict to include Israel. That is a move that is likely to accentuate the deep divisions in the Arab world. Some Arab nations have questioned the American legitimacy in attacking Iraq in order to liberate Kuwait under the UN resolutions.

Iran

President on Possibility of Coup in Iraq

LD1701184491 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1648 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Interview with President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, chairman of the Supreme National Security Council, by unidentified Iranian television correspondent in Tehran after the end of the 17 January extraordinary Supreme National Security Council session—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Following the attack by the multinational force on Iraq, our country's Supreme National Security Council held a session chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by all members and advisers and high-ranking military commanders. We asked Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to tell us about the most important issues discussed at the session and Iran's stance regarding the present war in the Persian Gulf.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: We reviewed almost every important issue relating to the crisis and the military clashes. Basically, today is one of the most bitter days for us and for our friends because we are witnessing Muslim people and regional resources being ruthlessly bombarded and destroyed and the calamity that has befallen the people of Iraq and some regional countries. This was really avoidable; but this situation arose through misconception and miscalculation, while arrogant forces earned a chance to attain their goals.

We reviewed all these issues. We reviewed the situation on the battlefronts, possible events in the war, the possible consequences of the war, the possible spread of the war, the possible involvement of Turkey or Israel, and humanitarian and political issues. We made certain decisions and told officials to carry out their tasks. One of the important decisions we made was to start an extensive effort to stop something that could be very dangerous. They went to make preparations.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, if the war were to spread and if our country's national interests were threatened, how would the Islamic Republic of Iran deal with it?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We would naturally intervene and defend our national interests. That decision was reached in previous sessions and we are prepared for it. Fortunately, so far we have not seen any signs or evidence of our country's interests being threatened. The interests and the people of the region, however, are important to us. Our present efforts are concentrated on safeguarding the interests of the Muslims in the region. If our interests are directly threatened, we would intervene appropriately in any given situation.

[Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi, how do you evaluate the present situation in Kuwait and Iraq? Do you foresee the possibility of a coup d'etat in Iraq?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] One cannot rule out the possibility. Those who have made these plans and are running the war have definitely allowed for this in their plans. Whether they will be able to see this through is another matter. Of course, we have no evidence that they have the capability. Nevertheless, based on our general calculations, we believe that this would be one of the ways to shorten the war, but whether they can do it or not is not clear to us.

[Correspondent] Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, will the outbreak of this war, in which many Muslim countries in the region are involved, have any effect on the fate of the intifadah, the uprising of the people of Palestine?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It certainly will not be without effect. Basically, this war affects the whole region: it affects many things, including the intifadah. One of our regrets is that when the intifadah was at its height, the resources of Muslims were funneled in another direction. Naturally, for some time the intifadah will be neglected, which may give the Zionists a chance to act more ruthlessly. Of course that is also foreseeable, which in itself may stir the consciences of Muslims and cause them to pay more attention to Palestine. It should be studied from both angles. On the whole, however, we should say that the Gulf war will affect the Israeli situation, the intifadah, and regional issues.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Hashemi, a special tranquillity prevails in our country at the moment. People are very happy with the measures the Supreme National Security Council has adopted. They are rejoicing in the fact that Iran is not entangled in the war. What is your excellency's view on that?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course we attribute it to God's blessing. God has not deemed it necessary to try this nation again, a nation which has already gone through a successful trial and made so many sacrifices for its objectives, for Islam, for its revolution, and for its imam

during the past 10 to 12 years. God has preserved us; God has guided us. Also, his eminence the imam's guidance in the past and the guidance and leadership of the present commander in chief and the leader have been of consequence. You must remember that two years ago we faced the same wave of multinational forces in the region. Thanks to the wisdom of the imam and the measures adopted then, however, that conspiracy was defeated. We removed the danger from our nation and the forces departed without endangering us—except for some limited encounters. Now we see that the same countries, Kuwait and Iraq, who were the factors instrumental in the arrival [of the multinational forces] here then, have once again caused them to return to the region. Well, the policies which we devised during this period of time—we always kept the issues under observation at the Supreme National Security Council and presented them to the leader—were generally such that we could see no reason whatsoever to involve ourselves in that conspiracy. The roots of the conspiracy did not concern us nor did we want it to happen. We did not agree with the occupation of Kuwait nor did we agree to the change in the region's geography; nor in fact did we agree to the presence of the alien forces. All these things are against the objectives of our revolution. Thus, as a matter of course we would not have gone down that path. It was possible, however, that some current could have dragged us into it, but being on guard and acting in a coordinated fashion helped us to remain safe. Now we are making efforts, God willing, to reduce the dimensions of that conspiracy and calamity.

[Correspondent] Having finished my questions, I thank you for your time. Please address our dear nation if you have any message.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I would like to tell our dear nation to appreciate the value of our independence and our self-reliance which you have achieved thanks to the revolution and self-sacrifices. Please notice how dependent nations, non-Muslim nations who are far away from Islam, create calamities. In the past they forced such a calamity on us. If one is self-reliant, if one does not take orders from others, one can direct one's fate in one's own interests. These words indicate my reply to your next question. Our people must continue on the same path. We must preserve our interests as we see fit and not let others drag us into ways which may land us in trouble. We must act the way we see fit. It means we must maintain our solidarity, unity, and self-awareness. Adherence to these feelings can preserve us.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Supreme Council Considers Crisis, Warns Israel

LD1701172691 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Supreme National Council was held this afternoon to review the dangerous situation arising from the military clash in the Persian Gulf region. The session was chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and attended by all its members, high-ranking military commanders, and advisors. During the session the military situation in the region was scrutinized. Forecasts and measures to safeguard Iran's vital interests against probable threats were assessed and reviewed.

Iran is extremely regretful that various diplomatic efforts, including Iran's peace-seeking efforts, were fruitless. Iran is seriously worried about the interests of the nations and about peace in the region and the world due to the outbreak and spread of the military clash. The clash could be an overture to disaster for the Islamic world. It must end as soon as possible.

The council recommends that the Iraqi Government cease the occupation of Kuwait; in return, foreign troops must evacuate the region quickly. Iran also expresses her deep anxiety about attacks on civilian areas, particularly holy places and residential areas, and seriously warns Israel not to take advantage of the situation and step up her aggression against the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people and Islamic land.

At the session it was decided that Iran will make an extensive diplomatic effort toward a speedy end to the war.

The great Iranian nation must rest assured that the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are on full alert to defend the Islamic land and national interests.

Majles Calls For 'Immediate Ceasefire' in Gulf

LD1701165791 Tehran IRNA in English 1602 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan 17, IRNA—Majles deputies in a closed-door session with members of the Supreme National Security Council Thursday, expressed grave concern over the massive military attack against Iraq and bombardment of Iraqi cities by the U.S.-led alien forces which took started early today. [as received]

A statement at the end of the meeting, described as "painful" the shelling of Iraqi Muslim women, children and men by the Western Alliance, and called for immediate ceasefire and swift departure of alien forces from the region.

In view of the sensitive situation in the Persian Gulf region, the Majles deputies called on the nation to participate in a rally before Friday prayer tomorrow, to demonstrate their hatred towards the killing of Muslims by the American forces and their allies,.

They said, the U.S. presence in the region is aimed at domination over the regional resources and ultimately over the Islamic world.

The MPs also opposed "any form of aggression by any power against any country," and made it clear that regional issues be solved only by regional countries.

Foreign Ministry Denies Intentions To Enter Iraq

LD1801112591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, the Turkish newspaper MILLIYET, quoting that country's president, wrote: In case of an Iraqi defeat, if the Iranian and Syrian armies make a move, Turkey will also enter Iraq.

In connection with the publication of that news, Mr. Sarmadi, our country's Foreign Ministry spokesman, announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran has no intention of entering Iraqi territory and any kind of claims in that regard are unfounded and baseless.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as announced repeatedly, strongly believes in the need to preserve Iraqi sovereignty and does not accept any geographical change in the region.

The spokesman of our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry added: We believe that, in the current conditions, instead of raising provocative issues, all efforts should be concentrated on limiting the boundaries of war and on ending it in order to avoid more casualties and damage.

UN Envoy Relays Rafsanjani Message on Gulf War

LD1801042191 Tehran IRNA in English 0113 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, Jan. 18 IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Dr. Kamal Kharrazi conveyed a verbal message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the Persian Gulf war, Thursday.

Speaking to reporters after his 30-minute meeting with Perez de Cuellar, Kharrazi once again voiced Tehran's deep concern over the continuation of the war in the region and its threats against the defenceless civilians and resources of the Islamic states.

On Rafsanjani's message to Perez de Cuellar, he said the Iranian president has expressed regret over the war sparked by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and declared Iran's readiness to join peace efforts to put an immediate end to the bloodshed. Kharrazi stressed that to accomplish this Iraq should certainly withdraw from Kuwait and the foreign forces should quit the region.

Praising the U.N. chief for all his peace efforts, including his latest appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait, President Rafsanjani informed Perez de Cuellar that the Islamic Republic has used and will continue to use all its capabilities to encourage Iraq to quit Kuwait, Kharrazi told reporters.

He added that Iranian officials had explicitly called on a high-ranking Iraqi delegation (headed by vice-chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council) which visited Tehran last week, to withdraw their troops from Kuwait to speed up a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Kharrazi also said that in his meeting with Perez de Cuellar he had announced Iran's readiness to extend humanitarian assistance to the victims of the war in the context of the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross as well as other responsible international organizations.

In response to a question, Kharrazi said Iran believed the current war threatened the stability and security of the region, and stressed the need for escalating diplomatic activities to halt the war and seek a peaceful solution to it.

On Iran's relations with Iraq, he said Tehran's relations with Baghdad remained unaffected by the crisis.

Friday Prayer Worshippers Condemn U.S., Israel

LD1801103791 Tehran IRNA in English 0844 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—Cries of "Death to the U.S." and "Death to Israel" echoed inside Tehran University and its nearby streets on Friday morning as Muslim worshippers thronged into the site of Friday prayers.

The worshippers also condemned the U.S. and its allies for waging a war and massacring Muslims of the region.

They also urged the Palestinian people to continue their resistance and uprising against the Zionist regime.

The prayers today is led by Ayatollah Mohammad Emami-Kashani, jurist member of the Council of Guardians.

Tehran University Students Protest U.S. Presence

LD1801071391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] More than 2,000 Tehran University students, the medical science faculty of Tehran, and the Islamic Association of the university housing quarter staged a march last night to condemn the U.S. military presence and its allies in the region. During this march, held in Tehran University's housing quarter, the students, by chanting slogans, declared their opposition to the war in the region. The marchers called upon the Muslim nations of the region to be vigilant against the U.S. presence in the region and subservience of the reactionary Arab shaykhs.

Saudis Reported Fleeing to Escape Chemical Attack

LD1801101391 Tehran IRNA in English 0756 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—A Saudi refugee who has managed to get out of Saudi Arabia told IRNA in a telephone conversation Thursday evening that huge explosions could be heard in eastern Saudi Arabia. The explosions, he said, are the result of large-scale Iraqi attacks on Talebiyeh, Jubail, Ras Tanura and Dhahran.

Saudis who have fled the country said that most Saudis are frightened of the news that Iraq will deploy chemical weapons against Western forces and Saudi Arabia.

They talk of huge explosions which could clearly be heard in the Saudi city of Qatif till 21:00 hours Saudi time Thursday. The citizens in this city are fearful of possible Iraqi resort to chemical weapons in order to repel attacks on Iraq.

The situation in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, they said, was unusual and an atmosphere of anxiety prevails over the city.

Iraqi Refugees Enter Iran, More Said Waiting

LD1701200591 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bakhtaran, Jan. 17, IRNA—A group of Iraqi people, the first since the outbreak of the Persian Gulf war, took refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran today by crossing through the Khosravi border post. Several other Iraqi Muslims are said to be waiting on Iran's western borders for permission to enter the Islamic Republic because of the U.S.-led air attacks on their country which started in the earlier hours today morning.

Meanwhile, a local official of West Azerbaijan province said today that in the coming hours reporters would be confirming the news of the arrival of Iraqi refugees.

Oshnaviyeh, Piranshahr and Sardasht are the Iranian towns closest to the Iraqi border and are expected to host the Iraqi refugees. It was a common sight during the eight year [war] against Iran, to see Iraqi refugees, both Arabs and Kurds, pouring into the Islamic Republic.

Reports of Refugees Denied

LD1801100791 Tehran IRNA in English 0734 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan. 18, IRNA—Reports that the Iraqi war refugees are flooding into Iran through southern borders in this southern province was described as inaccurate by IRNA correspondent here Friday morning.

Saudi Radio announced at 7:30 Tehran time (04:30 GMT) today that hundreds of Iraqis are fleeing to Iran.

IRNA correspondent reporting from Shalamcheh, the main passage on the Iran-Iraq border, through which the Iraqi refugees are most likely to enter Iran, said that he saw no sign of Iraqis arriving in large groups.

Meanwhile, residents of the border port-city of Khorramshahr are reported to have seen the U.S. and the allied forces military aircraft heading towards Iraq and also missiles launched from U.S. warships. Sound of bombardments and Iraqi anti-aircraft fires could clearly be heard in Khorramshahr.

Allied Missile Strikes Seen From Iraq Border

LD1801103391 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov. (bordering Iraq), Jan. 18, IRNA—Foreign warships deployed in the Persian Gulf fired nine missiles at targets inside Iraq at 11:30 and 11:40 hours local time (0800 and 0810 GMT) Friday.

The missiles flying at a low altitude could be observed here. The sound of some aircraft was heard in Khorramshahr which were flying across the border inside of Iraq, followed by the boom of some explosions.

Earlier, American warships fired two missiles at the Iraqi port city of Basra overnight. The shock waves resulting from the blast of missiles in Basra shook buildings in the border Iranian port city of Khorramshahr.

Radio Warns of Western 'Propaganda' in Gulf War

LD1801062291 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Station commentary; from the "Review of Foreign Radios" program]

[Excerpts] The attack of the multinational forces against Iraq turned the Persian Gulf crisis into an all-out war. This is something that many tried to avert during the past five months. While the current Persian Gulf war is continuing in undefined dimensions, everyone is hoping that its spread will remain limited and that this phase would come to a rapid end.

The war is going on in a region inhabited by Muslims. The richest resources of the Muslim people are in this region. The damage inflicted, ultimately, is a loss for Muslims and is against their national and Islamic interests. Its consequences will harm the people of the region.

All through the Persian Gulf crisis, our country tried to make the Iraqi Government understand that it had started a dangerous game and would have no alternative but to retreat from Kuwait and end its aggression. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran tried, in the international arena, to point out that the danger posed by the presence of countless multinational forces would not serve the interests of the people of the region in any way, and would even threaten their existence and independence.

About 30 hours after the start of the Persian Gulf war, the accuracy of the Islamic Republic's prediction was proven. It has become clear that not only does the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait have no chance of success, but that the concentration of the Western and multinational forces has cast a dreadful shadow of war and fire over the region. This bloody war will bring nothing but destruction and ruin to the Muslim people of the region.

Foreign radios, in their propaganda of the past few months, have instilled the idea that they are pursuing some humane objectives and that their main objective is

to restore Kuwait's sovereignty and independence. This claim is a deceitful cover for their partially vague objectives and intentions for the region's future and the imposition of their aggressive policies. One should note that the course of events can be dangerous. The Islamic Republic, therefore, cannot accept the current battle operations and is carefully watching the region's developments, and still hopes that through the wisdom of the Iraqi Government, the way will be paved for the establishment of peace and restoration of tranquility.

The current propaganda of the foreign radios demonstrates one-sided reporting of the news and imposed reporting of the Persian Gulf region. In view of our experience with Western propaganda, one cannot trust or rely on their statements at all. The foreign radios report the current developments of the Persian Gulf in a way that Washington or London deem expedient, not the way they really happen. We therefore instruct those who possibly listen to these radios that they receive the news censored and that these radios are officially prevented from reporting everything. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi Government has repeated its previous stances and has reiterated determination to continue the war against the multinational forces. Such a decisive stand might change at any time. But repetition of such statements can mean that Iraq intends to continue or even to intensify the battles, which can lead to dangerous consequences for the people of the region, and particularly for Iraq.

ABRAR on War's Impact on Price of Oil

NC1801102391 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 12 Jan 91 p 8

[Political commentary entitled: "The Outlook on Oil Prices in the Event of a Possible War in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] With the failure of the Geneva talks, the frightening specter of war has in practice cast its ominous shadow on the Persian Gulf, and with the approach of 15 January and lack of progress in political and mediation efforts, the shadow seems to be extending daily.

There is no doubt that the advent of any kind of confrontation and conflict has, and will continue to have, a direct or indirect link with the "issue of oil" in the region. In our opinion, until the littoral Arab states of the Persian Gulf, especially the countries of the oil-rich areas in the region themselves realize that they should benefit independently, from their God-given national resources, especially their energy resources, "only for development and for their people's welfare within the framework of real independence" and should join hands in unison and solidarity.

The emergence of such conflicts and artificial and real crises—which naturally stem from the direct intervention of superpowers, their avarice, and their appetite for devouring the world—becomes inevitable, as a result of which the people of the region will continue to be robbed of peaceful slumber.

Let us pass on to the fate of oil prices and the future prospect of the oil market in the event of war. The fact is that world oil markets have never been gripped by such uncertainty and turbulence on the issue of energy and its daily transactions. Hence the conditions prevailing in the oil market today are exceptional. This is because in the past, the oil crises, as in the Arab-Israel war, and subsequently in the early stages of the Islamic Revolution, ended relatively more swiftly.

In those days, there were mercurial price rises for oil in the wake of those crises; the oil market did not experience the consecutive oscillations, daily, hourly, and even by the minute. Since Iraq's 2 August onslaught on Kuwait, 160 days ago, oil prices have plummeted and soared scores of times. The fluctuations have been such that the stability and instability of prices has wavered in this period and have not remained steady even for a week on end. Merely by the dissemination of one report hinting at a possible solution of the Persian Gulf crisis, the hands of the oil price clock swung downward. With even the slightest inkling of a situation to the contrary, the course of oil prices changed upward within days or even hours.

With the spread of the news of the failure of the Geneva talks, however, the pulse of oil price changes quickened at an exceptional pace, and this quickening continues to escalate in the past few days, hours, and even minutes. It is for this purpose that the pendulum of prices has not stopped swinging even for a moment, while the consumers are facing uncertainty and bewilderment during the transactions, because, if they vacillate even for a moment in their dealings, they lose millions of dollars. The dealers themselves are faced with a confusing situation, however, as they do not know what could change in the next minute.

This is exactly what we mentioned earlier—that the present situation is exceptional: In previous crises, oil prices and international stock exchanges had not been characterized by such utter uncertainty and turmoil. Once a war begins, prices will definitely follow an upward trend and if the mediation efforts were to succeed; had the opposite occurred, prices would have slumped.

In the interim, however—that is, in the period since the failure of the talks, which has immensely heightened the eventuality of war, and the firing of the first shots in the Persian Gulf, or until the issue is resolved amicably—this exceptional uncertainty will continue to prevail on the international oil market and will continue to be fraught with uncertainty and apprehension.

Now let us assess what will be the fate of oil prices in the event of war, which will not be different from the prospects listed below:

1. If the war comes in the form of a blitzkrieg—that is, if conditions indicate that Iraq will be defeated within a few weeks, then the spiraling trend will be slowed down to fluctuating between $40 and $60 per barrel.

2. If the duration of the war is longer and continues over the next summer, then there is a possibility of oil prices rising to $80 or $100 per barrel. Of course, this would also be linked to the conditions prevailing at that time and the exporting ability of the remaining OPEC member countries.

3. In the event of no confrontation, and Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, then it is predicted that oil prices will take a nosedive to even lower than the OPEC-specified $21 per barrel.

4. If Iraq succumbs in the course of some weeks or even until next spring in a possible conflict, again oil prices will be expected to decline below the OPEC-specified level for two reasons: First, the upcoming spring and summer seasons will be periods of low consumption, as these seasons usually are; and second, the United States and its allies, the major industrial countries, will strive to reduce oil prices and to make oil much cheaper, in the aftermath of their victory. In this manner, they can embitter the sweet taste of the past few months in the mouths of the OPEC members.

It is notable that the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy regarding the storing of tens of millions of barrels of crude oil in international waters would be an innovative and interesting measure when the present crisis-ridden conditions, which are replete with the possibility of an unprecedented spiraling of prices, could fill the country's coffers with an astronomical income.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

Pachanyat Supporters, Students Clash; 25 Injured

BK1601001691 Hong Kong AFP in English 2359 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 15 (AFP)—At least 25 people have been injured in a political clash in Rajbiraj Township, 190 kilometers (120 miles) southeast of the Nepalese capital Kathmandu, a Home Ministry source said Tuesday.

The violence occurred Monday between supporters of the pro-Panchayat National Democratic Party (NDP), headed by former prime minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand, and students who favor multi-party politics in Nepal.

NDP leaders were about to address a rally in Rajbiraj when the violence broke out, with students attacking the speakers with stones.

The Home Ministry source said the NDP had brought in martial-law experts and volunteers armed with long staffs who started pushing the students, who have been raising questions about the fate of colleagues who disappeared during Mr. Chand's 1983-85 term in office.

One truck, a tractor, two motorcycles and a local Hindu printing press were also set on fire, while an angry crowd of 5,000 surrounded the local police station and smashed the windshield of the chief district officer's jeep.

Five of the injured were reported to be in serious condition, a police report said.

It was the third time in Nepal's low-lying tropical region that NDP leaders had been prevented by students and youths from holding a public rally. The two other incidents occurred last month in Banepa and Birgunj.

Nepal ended its 30-year partyless Panchayat system of government last year after 10 weeks of demonstrations in favor of multi-party democracy which left at least 500 people dead.

Dalai Lama To Visit Kathmandu for First Time

BK1701005891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1742 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 16 (AFP)—The Dalai Lama will visit Kathmandu for the first time in late February to address a Buddhist congress here, a spokesman said Wednesday.

The Nepal Buddhist Welfare Association spokesman said the Dalai Lama, 56, had accepted an invitation to visit Kathmandu and address Buddhist disciples on February 28.

The Dalai Lama, who has lived in exile since being expelled from Tibet in 1959 by the Chinese, has only once before been permitted to enter Nepal to worship and has never been allowed to travel to Kathmandu.

His visit follows the April ouster of the 30-year partyless panchayat government, which had barred the over 15,000 Tibetan refugees living in Nepal from taking part in political activities.

An official source said however that due to Nepal's improved ties with China, the Dalai Lama would not be permitted to make any anti-Chinese speeches.

Bhutan

Army Accused of Slaying Four Opponents

BK1701004291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1904 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 16 (AFP)—Bhutan's Army has allegedly shot dead four opponents and arrested 4,165 others, a report said here Wednesday quoting the opposition Bhutanese People's Party (BPP).

The Nepalese national news agency (RSS) said "Four Bhutanese freedom fighters ... were shot dead and thrown outside the nearby police station on January 3."

The RSS report quoting the BPP said the Bhutanese Army had started arresting pro-democracy leaders and forcibly deporting people from the tiny kingdom nestled between India and China for voicing opposition to King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

The RSS report said "a total of 2,574 Bhutanese of Nepalese origin have already been deported and 1,700 other citizens have been ordered to leave the country so far."

BPP reported that a total of 4,165 people had been arrested by Bhutanese security forces. The charge could not be independently confirmed.

Bhutanese sources in New Delhi, however, denied the report of the killings and expulsions of so many people. A Bhutanese diplomat said anti-monarchy activists were intimidating local people into supporting their movement.

Bhutanese of Nepalese origin are the majority in southern Bhutan and form 30 to 40 per cent of the total Bhutanese population.

A BPP spokeman in September said that more than 200 people were killed, in addition to some 1,500 arrested, in violence connected with the pro-democracy campaign.

However the claim was dismissed as "absolutely unbelievable" by a Bhutanese Embassy spokesman in the Indian capital.

Pakistan

Thousands Protest U.S. Attack on Iraq

BK1701150091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 17 (AFP)—Pakistan's cabinet went into emergency session Thursday as anger over U.S. attacks on Iraq swept the country and thousands of demonstrators clashed with police, witnesses said.

Police fired tear gas shells and charged crowds with batons to protect U.S. missions in different cities, reports said.

Large crowds chanting "Down With America" turned out in major cities of Peshawar, Lahore, Karachi and Multan, while anti-war rallies also took place in smaller towns, reports said.

More than 3,000 people, mostly students, tried to storm the U.S. consulate in the northwestern city of Peshawar, forcing police to open fire in the air, witnesses said.

Religious and political leaders denounced the U.S. air strikes as "international terrorism" and offered to send thousands of volunteers to defend Iraq.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif cut short a visit to Karachi and rushed back to Islamabad to chair an extraordinary cabinet meeting on Gulf developments.

"We are very much concerned," he told reporters, as Pakistan's foreign office set up an emergency group to monitor events in the Gulf where about one million Pakistani nationals work.

"The war in the Gulf carries in it the potential of a global catastrophe," Mr. Sharif said.

He said: "Let us pray to god almighty to protect and preserve the Moslem nation in this hour of crisis."

Pakistan International Airlines Thursday cancelled all flights to Middle Eastern and North African destinations.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said it had not been told of any Pakistani casualties. Some 10,000 Pakistani troops are deployed in Saudi Arabia along the border with Yemen and Jordan.

A military spokesman here rejected local press reports that the country's armed forces had been put on high alert.

Thousands of people thronged the Punjab city of Multan to register as volunteers with a pro-Iraq religious party Jamiat Ulema Pakistan (JUP).

JUP Leader Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, who vowed to recruit 25,000 volunteers, said 12,000 have already been enlisted.

In the North West Frontier Province where pro-Iraqi President Saddam Husayn sentiment has been particularly high, rallies took place in more than half a dozen cities and towns, witnesses said.

Angry demonstrators tried to attack U.S. facilities in the provincial capital of Peshawar and pelted police with stones, witnesses said.

Demonstrators burned U.S. flags and effigies of U.S. President George Bush, chanting "Down With America," "Down With Israel" and "Saddam, We Are With You."

In the Punjab capital Lahore, police used tear gas to protect the U.S. consulate from a large stone-throwing mob, witnesses in Lahore said.

About 10,000 people rallied in Baluchistan's capital, Quetta, witnesses said.

Police in Islamabad lobbed tear gas grenades at students when they tried to march from their college, witnesses said.

Security agencies were bracing for more demonstrations Friday.

"The U.S. role in the Middle East is aimed at capturing the oil wealth of Arabs," said JUP leader Mr. Noorani.

Washington had always condoned and encouraged Israel in its "naked aggression and occupation of Arab and Palestinian lands," he said, calling for a Jihad (holy war) against the United States.

Karachi-based World Moslem Conference Secretary General Inamullah Khan said the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait could be condemned, but should not have been used as "an excuse for vengeance against Iraq."

Strategic analyst and retired Pakistan Army officer General Zakir Ali Zaidi said the war was part of a "grand strategy" to keep the Moslem world divided.

Cabinet Meets, Expresses Grief at Gulf War

BK1701163091 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] An emergency meeting of the federal cabinet was held in Islamabad this afternoon which reviewed the situation arising out of the military operation in the Gulf. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif presided. In a statement issued later, the government and the people of Pakistan expressed deep grief and concern over the failure of consistent efforts to establish peace in the Gulf and the outbreak of hostilities there, which may prove disastrous for the region, especially the Islamic countries. Pakistan has expressed the hope that the Gulf dispute will be dealt with in a statesmanly and prudent manner and the war will be stopped forthwith so as to save the human lives and provide yet another opportunity for peace. The statement said that Pakistan is fully prepared to support all efforts in establishing peace on the basis of principles and UN Security Council resolutions. Pakistan and the global community's stand on Iraqi troops pullout from the brotherly country of Kuwait is based on the principle of upholding the international law and basic norms of interstate relations. It has been reflected in the Islamic Conference Organization resolutions as well. It is unfortunate that despite numerous appeals by world leaders and the prime minister of Pakistan, Iraq failed to agree to withdraw its troops from Kuwait. The statement said that the government and the people of Pakistan express deep grief over the failure of consistent efforts to establish peace and the outbreak of hostilities. The war can become disastrous for the region, particularly the Islamic countries.

Nawaz Sharif Addresses Naval Cadets on Gulf War

BK1701155891 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said that a war in the Gulf is a threat to the peace and security of the region and the entire world. Addressing the Metric Men Commission parade [of Pakistan Naval Academy] in Karachi today, he said the Gulf war has the potential of a global catastrophe. The prime minister said that Pakistan is a peaceloving country and desires cordial relations with all countries. He expressed the confidence that the country's defense is in secure hands. He referred to the issues of Kashmir and Afghanistan as well and reiterated Pakistan's principled stands on these issues. Nawaz Sharif appreciated the Pakistan Navy's services for the national defense.

In a message read out on the occasion, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan urged the successful cadets to uphold the Islamic ideologies and values for which Pakistan was established.

Schools in North-West Frontier Province Closed

BK1801084891 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] All universities, colleges and schools in the NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] have been closed till further order. An official spokesman in Peshawar said today that the students have been advised to vacate their hostels immediately.

Sri Lanka

Presidential Adviser Comments on Gulf War

BK1801111891 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The adviser to the president on international affairs, Bradman Weerakoon, has announced that the government is saddened by the fact that intensive diplomatic activity in the past few weeks failed to produce the desired objective in the Gulf and that these efforts have failed. He told newsmen that the government was hopeful that the Security Council resolution, which Sri Lanka supported unequivocally, would have been implemented without the need to resorting to force. The government has noted the statement by President Bush yesterday that the coalition forces were striking at strategic targets only and that the goal was not the destruction of Iraq, but the liberation of Kuwait.

He also said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in contact with the Sri Lankan missions in the Gulf region in regard to the safety and security of our workers in the Middle East.

Security Forces Kill 33 LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK1701133291 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1126 GMT 17 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—Thirty three LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed as government troops cleared the jungles of Thoppigala and Wadamunai in the eastern district of Batticaloa, Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne disclosed today at his weekly news briefing at the Gramodaya Centre in Colombo. Mr. Wijeratne said that (?13) terrorists had been killed, 13 drowned and the rest marooned due to floods. The operation had taken place Monday.

He described these LTTE cadres as the remnants operating in the east.

Earlier, the jungles of Mandur and Kokkidacholai had been cleared of LTTE terrorists.

He said that although the LTTE had said it was continuing the cease-fire thinking it would fool the world, it had committed 19 more violations by attacking the security forces.

The security forces had counter attacked effectively, particularly at Mullaitivu, Elephant Pass and in the Jaffna Peninsula where there were several instances of face to face fighting.

Replying to a question Mr. Wijeratne said Sri Lankan security forces had enough weapons to fight the war. "We can deal with the terrorists with our present inputs". In any case, Sri Lanka did not purchase her weapons from the Gulf region. There was also enough fuel for aircraft, supplies were from areas outside the Middle East.

Asked whether the Tigers will be affected, the minister said the Indian government blockade against the LTTE was successful and there was more effective surveillance.

The minister said 543 soldiers had been killed in action since 11 June, when the LTTE without any notice broke off talks with the Sri Lankan government, breaking a year long cease-fire and launched an offensive. One hundred and eighty six soldiers were missing in action, including 85 from the Mankulam camp. Five Naval, seven Air Force, eight Special Task Force personnel and 310 policemen had been killed and 352 were missing. Altogether, 893 security force and policemen were killed and 548 were missing, making a total of 1,441.

A total of 1,792 security forces and police personnel were wounded since last 11 June and 1,309 had been discharged from hospital.

Associated with Mr. Wijeratne at today's conference were Secretary, Defence General Cyril Ranatunge, Presidential Advisor on International Relations Bradman Weerakoon and Secretary to the Minister of Defence Air Chief Marshal Walter Fernando.

Red Cross Official Rejects LTTE 'Propaganda'

BK1701135491 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1134 GMT 17 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 17 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—The International Committee of The Red Cross [ICRC] had checked LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] politburo allegations of torture by the Special Task Force at Akkaraipattu in the east and found them to be totally false. The charges included torture and killings of 44 terrorists in a pit. Killed four others and shot dead a farmer, while he was working in his fields [sentence as received].

A report from the commandant of the Special Task Force had in a report stated that the head of the ICRC in Sri Lanka Phillipe Comtesse had investigated the LTTE allegations and had expressed shock at the extent of the LTTE fabrications which were totally false and concocted for international consumption.

The ICRC had found there had been no such incidents as alleged by the false LTTE propaganda designed to fool the world.